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Al Mawash

Candidates speak

Al Ibrahim Al Mawash, 70, an ex-parliament member for three sessions expects the number of candidates to reach 500.

Mawash, one of those who met with HH the Crown Prince and Premier during the dialogue, said that every experience has its minuses. "Meddling in the personal affairs of some families and insulting a number of leaders of neighbouring countries were negatives of the National Assembly."

He said that his campaign which will be limited to diwanisya visits could be summarised in two words: Public interest. "I promise to fulfill the needs of the people in my constituency and serve them in any way I could."

Mohamed Abdulla Al Hajiri, running for Hawalli, aims at developing the services and public utilities in his area which includes Bayan with a population of 40,000.

Hajiri, who didn't succeed in the last National Assembly elections will start his campaign 20 days before elections on June 10.

Aids in collision on pitch

LONDON, May 4, (Reuters): A footballer caught the Aids virus when he collided with an infected player on the pitch, according to a group of Italian doctors writing in a British medical weekly.

In a letter published in the Lancet, they said that during a match last December, a 25-year-old male bumped into another player, a drug user known to have the HIV virus, which causes Aids.

NEWSWATCH

Bowie-Jagger affair

The former wife of singer David Bowie says she once found her husband in bed with Rolling Stone Mick Jagger.

Angela Bowie, who has been divorced from the singer for 10 years, appeared on "The Joan Rivers Show" yesterday and said she had caught Bowie "in bed with men several times. In fact, one of the best times I caught him in bed with Mick Jagger."

Ms. Bowie did not say when the incident occurred. Nor did she offer any details. She agreed that Bowie had dumped her, but denied that she was bitter or angry at him. (Reuters)

Pakistani bride wins damages

Spurned Pakistani bride Zahida Seeml won 20,000 pounds (\$32,800) in slander damages on Wednesday against her husband and his parents, who claimed she was not a virgin when they married.

Miss Seeml's claim was a rare action brought under the 1891 slander of women act.

The High Court in London was told that on their wedding night in August 1981, Mohammed Nasir Sadiq told her she was "not good" and had been associating sexually with other men.

A medical examination in May 1985 had proved Miss Seeml was still a virgin, the judge said. "It is as clear as the sun is now shining that these were foul untruths." (AP)

Vegetarians search scriptures

Carnivores and vegetarians are diligently searching the scriptures in a dispute about whose diet enjoys divine sanction.

Britain's Agriculture Minister, John Selwyn Gummer, started the argument by declaring that "the Bible tells us that we are masters of the fowls of the air and the beasts of the field, and we very properly eat them." (AP)

Indian workers to leave Sri Lanka

The 100,000 Indian plantation workers, who were given Indian citizenship, cannot remain in Sri Lanka and they will have to go back to India, the island's cabinet spokesman, Ramen Wijeratne, said Thursday at the press briefing. (Kuna)

Chinese diplomat defects

A Chinese diplomat announced his defection yesterday, saying he had become endangered by his behind-the-scenes support for the democracy movement, and he maintained that most Chinese officials privately back reform.

Speaking calmly at a news conference, Xu Lin, 33, a third secretary in the education office of the Chinese embassy, said he defected Wednesday night because he was going to be sent back to China ahead of schedule. (UPI)

40 killed

Train derails

OAXACA, Mexico, May 4, (AP): A passenger train lost its brakes and derailed along a dry riverbed in the southern state of Oaxaca, killing at least 40 people and injuring more than 24, the Mexican Red Cross said today.

Rescue workers continued to search the wreckage of the Mexico city-bound train for more victims.

The train could have held as many as 240 people, but it was not immediately known how many passengers were on board when it derailed last night. The train originated in Oaxaca, about 220 miles (354 kms) south of Mexico City.

The accident occurred in the mountains near the state capital of Oaxaca. Red Cross rescue worker Victor Mendez said in a telephone interview.

Science grows 'brain' in a bottle

WASHINGTON, May 4, (Reuters): Scientists have for the first time grown human brain cells in the laboratory.

"To our knowledge, no one has ever been able to grow neurons from the brain, probably from any animal, much less a human," said Dr Solomon Snyder, a neuroscientist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where the breakthrough occurred.

The achievement, which is described in Science magazine, published today, has profound implications for scientists' understanding of the nervous system and for controversial US research into the treatment of degenerative brain diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease with transplanted foetal tissue.

Neurons are the cells that make up the body's nerves, spinal cord and brain. They are different from other cells in that they normally do not divide. When cells do not divide, new cells cannot grow to replace those that are dead or damaged.

"The problem with neurons is that they can't divide. By definition, growing tissue in culture means the cells divide. Now we have them living in a laboratory culture," Snyder said.

The discovery could help scientists to explore using cultured cells in transplants.

Some scientists have been exploring transplants of brain tissue from aborted fetuses as a treatment for such diseases as Parkinson's.

But, in a move that outraged the US scientific community, the US government has banned federal funding for such research, arguing that it would promote abortions.

"In principle, anything that one could do with a foetal tissue transplant, one could do with this just as well if not better," Snyder said.

The Johns Hopkins researchers already are collaborating with transplant experts, designing new experiments, he said.

The researchers obtained the cells for their culture from the brain of a patient undergoing surgery for the treatment of uncontrollable seizures.

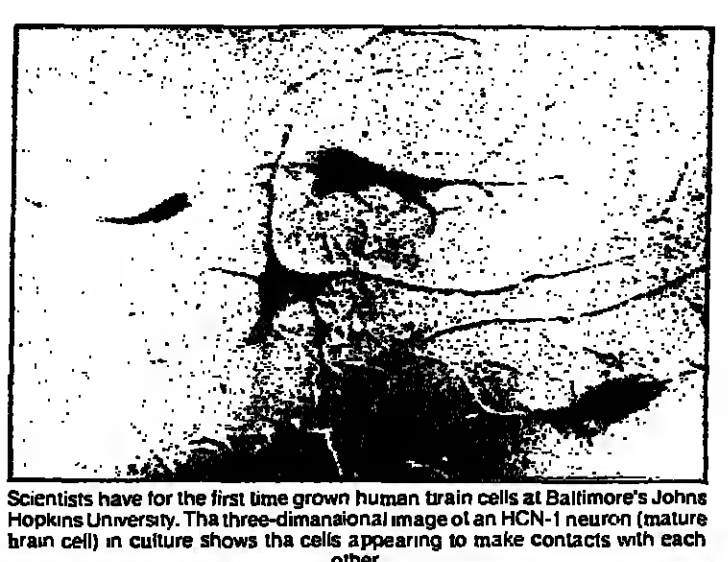
Cells from the patient's cerebral cortex, the part of the brain that plays a key role in consciousness, memory, thought and intellect, were removed and immediately placed in a laboratory culture.

After 21 days, two small clusters of the cells had survived, which the scientists then cloned.

The researchers used various tests to ensure the resulting cells were representative of normal brain cells and then treated them with different combinations of nutrients and hormones.

Scientists have for the first time grown human brain cells at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University. The three-dimensional image of an HCN-1 neuron (mature brain cell) in culture shows the cells appearing to make contacts with each other.

Scientists have for the first time grown human brain cells at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University. The three-dimensional image of an HCN-1 neuron (mature brain cell) in culture shows the cells appearing to make contacts with each other.



New Opec accord

Saudis, Kuwait key to oil prices

GENEVA, May 4, (Reuters): An output pact stitched together by Opec in the face of a growing world glut appeared to put the fate of world petroleum prices in the hands of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The Saudis, the biggest exporters, and Kuwait promised the largest cuts in crude oil production under the accord which, initially at least, failed to convince a sceptical market that Opec was doing enough to mop up surpluses.

New York June futures for West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the benchmark US crude, closed yesterday at \$17.99 per barrel, a drop of 69 cents on the day.

Generally, world oil prices are down about 25 per cent since January. The drop led Sadok Boussena of Algeria, the president of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, to call emergency talks of the 13 oil ministers.

The meeting ended yesterday with unsigned promises of output cuts totalling, if implemented, almost 1.5 million barrels per day or six per cent of recent Opec output.

Crisis, anger seen in Ummah

ALGIERS, May 4, (Agencies): Leading Islamic theologians opening a conference on the future of the Islamic world today called on Muslims to regenerate their faith to overcome backwardness and Israeli expansionism.

Two prominent Egyptian scholars cited the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel as the latest threat to an Islamic nation that had become prey to military, cultural and economic assaults from the West.

"If we do not pull our nation out of the situation it has reverted to, and arm it psychologically, intellectually, socially and economically, then we will be lost," said one of the Egyptians, Sheikh Mohammed Al Ghazali.

Islamic thinkers from 10 Arab countries will debate the challenges facing Islam in a four-day conference sponsored by the London-based Centre for Studies on the Future of Islam.

Fundamentalist political leaders Rachid Ghannouchi of Tunisia and Hassan Turabi of Sudan are among those due to present papers.

Ghazali said the mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel posed serious threat to Islam.

"The Jews, after having created the smaller Israel, have begun moving to create the greater Israel. Six Arab countries around Palestine will be destroyed, or their inhabitants will be reduced to refugees," he said.

Ghazali said Islam was passing through a phase of "intellectual infancy" marked by an obsession with superficial problems. Intellectuals had a special role to play because Islam's crisis was primarily one of thought, he said.

"The coming battle is not a military one... the battle now is in the fields of economy, information, education and culture."

An Egyptian prominent Egyptian, Sheikh Youssef Qandhawzi, said despite the present crises the world's one billion Muslims should look to the future with hope because of their enormous human and economic capacities.

Americans are distressed, alarmed and baffled by the surge of hatred and fundamentalism aimed at the United States, but a study of history explains it, a scholar of the Muslim world said.

Bernard Lewis, author of 20 books on Islam, said hatred of the United States manifested in such episodes as the 444-day hostage crisis that ended in 1981 — is partly an outgrowth of "humiliation — a growing awareness, among the heirs of an old, proud and for long dominant civilisation, of having been overtaken, overborne and overwhelmed by those whom they had long regarded as their inferiors."

And it is understandable, he said: "For vast numbers of Middle Easterners, Western-style economic methods brought poverty. Western-style political institutions brought tyranny, even Western-style warfare brought defeat."

"It is hardly surprising that so many are willing to listen to voices telling them that the old Islamic ways were best and that their only salvation was to throw aside the pagan and infidel innovations of the reformers and to return to the true path which God has prescribed for his people."



So many! Six-month-old Emily Nye plays amongst some of 17 St Bernard pupa born on March 23. Emily's mother Sally had her bitch Chloe artificially inseminated and was surprised that so many pupa were produced.

Iran seeks talks with Egypt over prisoners

CAIRO, May 4, (Reuters): Iran is seeking direct talks with Egypt on the fate of several thousand Egyptians taken prisoner during the Iran-Iraq war, an official Egyptian source said today.

"They want to tell the world we were involved in the war which we are not true," the source, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

"We were never part of the Gulf war. Iran captured Egyptian fishermen and workers in Iraqi waters which were seized during the war."

The source did not say how Iran, which has no diplomatic ties with Egypt, had passed on the talks invitation. He said Tehran was trying to use the POW issue to embarrass Cairo.

More than a million Egyptians were working in Iraq during the 1980-88 war.

Mubarak-Assad summit

A promising start

DAMASCUS, May 4, (Reuters): Syria said today that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's visit produced a promising start on rebuilding Arab unity, but no miracles.

"Maybe the summit had (too) many things to do, but the foundation stone was re-laid," commented the ruling party newspaper Al Baath.

The Damascus summit, even if it did not perform miracles, opened the way for Arab solidarity. Maybe it put an end to the state of collapse and weakness caused by contradictory Arab positions."

Mubarak's visit to Damascus on Wednesday and Thursday was the first by an Egyptian leader in 13 years and sealed a rift that resulted from the late Anwar Sadat's peacemaking with Israel.

But Mubarak could not persuade President Hafez Al Assad to end his long-standing quarrel with Iraq.

Al Baath said the summit had undoubtedly ended an era of division and would help the Arab world counter what it called the expansionist schemes of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

The government newspaper Tishreen attacked the United States for failing to take any serious initiative to restore Arab rights or put any serious pressure on Israel.

"The United States will continue its negative stand as long as Arabs remain fractured," it said.

"From this point of view, the Syria-Egypt meeting was a turning point in unifying Arab effort. It was a promising meeting on more than one level. It is the start of a new Arab effort."

● Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz is due to arrive in Damascus tomorrow and will proceed to Amman and Baghdad in a fresh effort to reconcile Syria and Iraq on the eve of the proposed extraordinary Arab summit.

Saudi diplomatic sources disclosed tonight.

Israelis fired on Hussein

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 4, (AP): An Israeli navy boat fired at the yacht of Jordan's King Hussein as the monarch was standing on deck, an Israeli newspaper reported today.

A military spokesman confirmed that a navy vessel was carrying out a "routine weapons check" in the vicinity of Hussein's yacht, but that no shots were fired directly at it.

The liberal daily Haaretz said the incident took place April 28 in the Gulf of Aqaba.

Jordan protested sharply to Israel and the United States. Israeli officials refused to apologise but assured Jordan it would not happen again, the newspaper said.

US President George Bush and US Secretary of State James A. Baker III expressed anger when informed about the incident, the newspaper said.

Spokesmen for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and the Defence Ministry could not be reached for comment.

Haaretz said Hussein's yacht was sailing in international waters, accompanied by a Jordanian navy vessel, when the Israeli patrol boat opened fire.

13 killed in Kashmir; talks possible: India

JAMMU, India, May 4, (Agencies): At least 13 people were killed today in a flare-up of secessionist violence in India's Jammu and Kashmir state, official sources said.

The officials in Jammu, the state's winter capital, said security forces shot dead seven pro-independence militants who crossed into Indian-ruled Kashmir from Pakistan.

Two wounded militants were arrested and a large quantity of arms and ammunition was seized, they said.

In Srinagar, the summer capital and centre of separatist activity, four people were killed in clashes between militants and security forces.

Police said three passers-by were killed when they were caught in crossfire as militants and security forces clashed in central Srinagar.

Militants also ambushed a paramilitary patrol and shot dead one member. In the southern valley town of Anantnag, militants kidnapped a police inspector and killed him.

More than 300 people have been killed in the Indian-ruled section of Kashmir since mid-January when Muslim militants stepped up a campaign for independence or merger with Pakistan.

Police sources said chief constable Ali Mohamed was gunned down this morning in a firefight with militants near a bazaar in the centre of Srinagar. News reports said security forces killed a suspected militant during a village raid in the southern part of the state.

Militants and security forces clashed throughout the day in the city, witnesses said. At least 10 people were wounded in the fighting.

Militants in the Zainakadal section of the city tossed a bomb at a truckload of Central Reserve Police Force officers in the late afternoon but none of the officers were hurt in the explosion, witnesses said.

Officers jumped from the truck and entered a bakery nearby, dragging the owner into the street, witnesses said. All six members of the Runga family were beaten up by the security forces, they said.

Other bombs exploded around the city and security forces cut short the curfew relaxation that was supposed to last until 6 pm (0830 GMT). Curfew was reimposed on the city at 3 pm (0530 GMT).

In the morning, groups of women demonstrated in front of police stations and in the city's centre, demanding information about their arrested husbands, brothers and sons.

Witnesses and relatives claim more than 2,000 people remain in custody following a city-wide sweep for the kidnappers and killers of a prominent educator and industrialist. The men were abducted and killed last month.

India said yesterday it was willing to accept Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's offer of a summit meet on Kashmir, but there should be no condition.

"At its face value such an offer conforms with what I have just stated, that is, that we always welcome bilateral discussions at all level to sort out outstanding issues between our two countries," Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral told the parliament.

Gujral was reacting to Benazir's offer of talks with Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh made at a joint news conference in Islamabad she addressed with Pakistani Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Wednesday.

Inside

CAPE TOWN, May 4, (AP): Government and African National Congress leaders completed three days of peace talks today amid signs they made progress on removing obstacles.

See Page 6

SOVIET UNION, May 4, (Reuters): The Latvian parliament declared Latvia an independent Democratic Republic today in the first stage of a process intended to take it out of the Soviet Union. — See Page 5

Sikh bombs kill 11

AMRITSAR, May 4. (UPI) Sikh extremists staged a spate of attacks across northern Punjab state in which at least 11 people died, including seven Hindu men shot dead in a raid on a rural hamlet, police said.

Police said the seven men were residents of the tiny village of Surat Mallial, located about 30 miles (50 km) northwest of the Sikh holy city of Amritsar.

They were shot dead at about 11.30 pm yesterday by eight Sikh extremists who entered the village wearing security forces uniforms and summoned residents out of their homes, police said.

Police said the assailants left a note at the scene identifying themselves as members of the Bhindranwale Tiger Force and saying the attack was to avenge the April 8 killing by security personnel of Jagra Singh, a self-styled lieutenant-general of another underground extremist outfit, the Khalistan Liberation Force.



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Bhattarai criticises Nepal monarchy

500 killed during democracy movement

KATHMANDU, May 4. (Agencies) At least 500 people died during the seven-week democracy movement in the Himalayan kingdom that led to the fall of a 29-year-old partyless form of government, Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai said yesterday.

"Our estimate is that at least 500 persons died during the movement," Bhattarai, who was an opposition leader before becoming prime minister, told a meeting organized by lawyers to discuss the shape of Nepal's new constitution.

Previous reports have indicated at least 52 people were killed when police clashed with protesters demanding democracy in the landlocked monarchy, and Bhattarai did not explain how he obtained the new figures.

However, human rights leader Rishikesh Shah said, "Bhattarai is near to the truth. My estimate is 500 to 600 persons died."

Shah referred to a confrontation when troops opened fire on demonstrators marching to the royal palace shortly before King Birendra consented to a multi-party democracy last month.

"I have reports from witnesses who have said authoritatively that bodies that might be carried off in at least four trucks," he said. "You can imagine how many bodies can be loaded in one truck."

A former human rights activist with links to the government said he had believed "at least 400 persons were killed during the movement" and added the prime minister "must be speaking on the basis of some facts."

Bhattarai was inaugurating a three-day conference by the Nepal Law Society to discuss the nature of a new constitution.

The king suspended parts of the existing con-

sitution regarding institutions of the ousted partyless panchayat system. Nepal's first multi-party government in 39 years was appointed by the king using emergency powers in the present constitution.

Bhattarai said King Birendra, who has extensive powers, wants to become a constitutional monarch. He criticised the monarchy's 29 years of almost absolute rule.

"We have had extensive discussions," Bhattarai said. "The king has to be constitutional. He has agreed. He is fed up. I am not pushing him."

"The king is also agreed that other members of the royal family should have less powers," Bhattarai told a cheering audience.

The queen, Birendra's brother and other members of the royal family have extensive businesses and head institutions like the Nepal

Red Cross.

Bhattarai, who heads an interim government pending elections, reiterated a committee will be formed soon to draft a constitution within 90 days.

He said the constitution will formally incorporate the right of "freedom of worship" after a request by Christians.

Nepal is the world's only Hindu kingdom and proselytizing is a punishable offence, but freedom of religion is tolerated. There are 50,000 Christians among the population of 19 million, who are mostly Hindus and Buddhists.

Guest speaker Albert Blaustein, a professor of law and constitutions at Rutgers University School of Law in New Brunswick, N.J., said the new constitution must be "made by Nepalese, and it must be framed to meet the needs of the Nepalese people."

India may get Bofors report

STOCKHOLM, May 4. (Reuters) The Swedish government said today it might pass to India classified parts of a report about charges that arms maker AB Bofors paid bribes to Indian officials to secure a huge 1986 arms deal.

Opposition members on parliament's constitutional committee united yesterday in favour of giving India the 1987 report into allegations that Bofors paid bribes to Indian officials to secure the £1.3 billion contract for field cannons.

The minority social democratic government has in the past turned down repeated Indian requests for the report, which was produced by Sweden's state audit bureau.

In January, the Indian government filed preliminary criminal charges against Bofors, which denies having made bribes. Bofors says any payments were severance pay after India said that no middlemen could be used in the deal.

A vote by the full parliament to release the report would not be binding, but the government would accept it. Foreign Ministry spokesman Lars-Olof Lundberg said, "If the parliament's decision is in favour... then the government will give the report (on Bofors) to the Indian government through diplomatic channels, but it will not be made public," he said.

Lundberg said it was still uncertain whether the full parliament would make the recommendation. "I don't know if there will be some debate within the opposition parties," he said.

Tigers kill 5 Bangladeshis

DHAKA, May 3. (Reuters) Royal Bengal tigers killed five people in the Sundarbans tidal forest of southern Bangladesh over the past two days, forest rangers said yesterday.

They said the tigers killed four men and a woman and also attacked at least 10 other people who were fishing in the forest.

At least 200 fishermen, woodcutters and honey collectors were killed by tigers in the Sundarbans in 1989, the rangers said.

Poaching has depopulated the forest's 600 royal Bengal tigers of their usual prey and turned some into man-eaters.



Fiesta celebration

Philippine Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos goes water skiing during a Filipino Fiesta celebration on Thursday in Dagupan City north of Manila. (Reuters wirephoto)

Secret accounts revealed

'Marcos friend kept two sets of bank books'

NEW YORK, May 4. (AP) A Filipino awaiting sentencing for fraud testified yesterday that a close friend of the late President Ferdinand Marcos kept two sets of books at his California bank and regularly shredded one set after reviewing them.

The witness, Rodolfo Arambulo, said he was told that the California Overseas Bank was set up in Los Angeles "because the president needed the bank," and that some of its secret accounts were used to finance his Imelda Marcos' shopping expenses.

The bank's owner and Marcos friend, Roberto S. Benedicto, was among those named as a co-conspirator in the fraud charge against the former Philippine First Lady.

Arambulo testified that Benedicto bought the small Ahmanson Bank in California for \$7 million in 1976, renaming it the

California Overseas Bank and keeping 65 per cent of the shares himself.

He said Benedicto personally handled all transactions for about 15 "nominee" savings and checking accounts that were later established to handle money that flowed in from Manila, Hong Kong, New York and Japan, where Benedicto had once served as the Philippines' ambassador.

Benedicto ordered two different sets of monthly statements, one a computer-generated version, the other a report in summary form. Arambulo said, "I submitted the reports to Roberto S. Benedicto. He reviewed the reports, and he shredded the reports," he said.

Among payments from the accounts, he said, were monthly transfers to the Philippine National Bank in New York, which the prosecution has described as "Imelda Marcos' personal piggy bank."

Arambulo said that when he asked Betty Rivera, Benedicto's secretary, what the special accounts were for, she replied that they were to finance the First Lady's expenses, and that the \$10,000 monthly transfers were to cover expenses of Imee, the Marcoses' oldest daughter, and their son Ferdinand Jr.

Often described as the late President Marcos' closest friend and ally, the 73-year-old Benedicto is a fugitive believed to be living in Venezuela.

However, he is reported to have made a deal with US prosecutors that would allow him to avoid trial for being called as a witness.

According to a Los Angeles Times story April 22, Benedicto agreed to turn the bank over to the Philippine government as part of the deal worked out by US and Philippine authorities. A court spokesman said yesterday judge John F. Keenan had not approved any such agreement.

The government charges that Mrs. Marcos and her husband, who died in Hawaii last year, embezzled more than \$220 million from their country's treasury during Marcos' 20-year reign and used it to finance lavish living and the purchase of four large properties in New York.

Mrs. Marcos' co-defendant, Saudi Arabian financier Adnan Khashoggi, is accused of mail fraud and obstruction of justice by allegedly helping the Marcoses to conceal their ownership of the Manhattan real estate and artworks.

Mrs. Marcos returned to court yesterday after a one-day recess without the special blood pressure monitor that she had worn after becoming ill during testimony a week ago.

Earlier, Mrs. Marcos' defence attorneys tried to show that alleged kickbacks paid to her husband by Japanese investors in the Philippines were legal commissions on normal business transactions.

Kaifu, on the last leg of his five-month tour of Asia, arrived today for talks expected to focus on maintaining foreign aid to Indonesia at current levels.

Kaifu, the seventh Japanese prime minister to visit Indonesia, was greeted at the Jakarta airport by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and other Indonesian dignitaries and foreign diplomats.

He later met with President Suharto at a welcoming ceremony.

Japan to give \$38m aid to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, May 4. (Kuna) Japan pledged a total of sixty billion yen (\$38 million) additional aid to Pakistan after Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu held talks on Wednesday with Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on the first day of his two-day official visit to Pakistan.

A spokesman for Kaifu's delegation told a press briefing this evening that the new aid package would relate to three major projects. An amount of 20.8 billion yen was allocated for expansion of Pakistan's telecommunications network.

For the second phase of the construction of Indus highway the aid would be worth 20.7 billion, he said. According to the spokesman 19.3 billion has been earmarked for re-adjustment to balance of payments position.

Apart from this, Premier Kaifu announced, an aid of \$340,000 for preservation of Moenjodaro, the 3,000-year-old ruins near Larkana on the banks of Indus River.

Kaifu today extended an invitation to Benazir Bhutto to pay a visit to Japan, which she accepted, a spokesman for Kaifu said.

He told a press briefing that Benazir had indicated that she would undertake the trip early next year.

A Sri Lankan official said today that Kaifu was "satisfied with (the Sri Lankan) government's explanation regarding reports of alleged human rights violations in Sri Lanka."

Amnesty International and other human rights organisations have said that many of the thousands of civilians murdered in the past two years were victims of pro-government death squads trying to wipe out a Sinhalese nationalist terrorist movement.

Bradman Weerakoon, advisor on international affairs to President Ranasinghe Premadasa, told a news conference that Premadasa had explained to the Japanese prime minister that he had reluctantly acted against the terrorists as they were a threat to democracy.

Weerakoon said Premadasa had told Kaifu that most reports on human rights violations in Sri Lanka had been exaggerated. He told him that the action taken was just and reasonable in the light of the threat faced at the time.

Since 1983, over 10,000 Sri Lankans have died in ethnic violence sparked by Tamils fighting for independence and by Sinhalese nationalists opposed to granting Tamils greater autonomy.

Asked if the government was surprised that the Japanese prime minister raised the question of human rights violations, Weerakoon responded negatively adding that most of the donor countries bring up these matters from time to time.

He said the Japanese prime minister has been told of the various steps taken by the government to restore normalcy in the country including the phased withdrawal of the state of emergency.

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O'Connor, Madonna remain at the top

NEW YORK, May 4, (AP): Sinead O'Connor's hit "Nothing Compares 2 U" retained the number one position Wednesday at the top of the pop singles record charts in the United States for the second week in a row.

The week's two newcomers were "All I Wanna Do" by Heart, which made it to number nine from 16 last week, and Aerosmith's "What It Takes" which grabbed number 10 spot.

The top 10 pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (1) Nothing Compares 2 U — Sinead O'Connor (Chrysalis)
2. (2) Don't Want To Fall In Love — Jane Child (Warner Brothers)
3. (4) I Want To Be Rich — Calloway (Solar)
4. (6) How Can We Be Lovers — Michael Bolton (Columbia)
5. (10) Whip Appeal — Bay Face (Solar)
6. (3) All Around the World — Lisa Stansfield (Arista)
7. (9) Without You — Motley Crue (Elektra)
8. (7) Here and Now — Luther Vandross (Epic)
9. (10) All I Wanna Do — Heart (Capitol)
10. (11) What It Takes — Aerosmith (Geffen)

The top 10 country-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (2) Walkin' Away — Clem Black (RCA)
2. (3) I'm Over You — Keith Whitley (RCA)
3. (6) The Domino Theory — Steve Warner (MCA)
4. (5) If Looks Could Kill — Rodney Crowell (Columbia)
5. (1) Help Me Hold On — Travis Tritt (Warner Brothers)
6. (9) I Watched It All (On My Radio) — Lionel Cartwright (MCA)
7. (12) Guardian Angel — The Judds (RCA)
8. (9) Bring Back Your Love To Me — Earl Thomas Conley (RCA)
9. (10) Walking Shoes — Tanya Tucker (Capitol)
10. (11) I've Cried My Last Tear — Ricky Van Shelton (Columbia)

And in London, Madonna topped the British pop singles chart for the third week in a row with "Vogue", while "Opposites Attract" by Paula Abdul with the Wild Pair moved up two spots to second spot.

This week's top 10 singles, as listed by our Price Music Ltd., The National Music retail chain, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (1) Vogue — Madonna (Sire)
2. (4) Opposites Attract — Paula Abdul with the Wild Pair (Sire)
3. (2) Bad Boy — Aaliyah (A&M)
4. (10) Dirty Cash — Adventures of Steve V (Mercury)
5. (3) The Power — Snap (Arista)
6. (9) Killer — Adamski (MCA)
7. (5) Step On — Happy Mondays (Factory)
8. (7) Ghetto Heaven — Family Stand (Atlantic)
9. (6) Kingston Town — UB40 (Decca International)
10. (new) A Dream A Dream — Son II Soul (Virgin)

US town shocked by suicides

Series of self-killings at Sheridan High School, Arkansas

SHERIDAN, Arkansas, May 4, (AP): Mourners of three teen-agers who killed themselves were told at the first victim's funeral that it was too late to bring him back, but going with him was still our choice.

Thomas Smith, 17, was the first of three suicides among students at Sheridan High School in two days, and counselors for their classmates were on 24-hour call. About 80 students missed classes Wednesday, about 30 more than usual.

Some of the absentees were among about 250 people packed into the funeral home chapel to hear the Rev. Dennis Moon urge them to cling to God as they

grieved over Smith's death.

"Bringing back Tommy is beyond our control, but going with him ... is still our choice," said Moon during the 20-minute service.

"I believe we need to begin to stop asking the unanswerable question, 'why?' and we need to begin to ask the answerable question, 'what is it God would want us to do?'" said Moon.

On Monday, Smith stood in front of his American history class, told a female classmate, "I love you," pulled a gun out of his pants and shot himself.

Later that day, Thomas Chidester, 19, a friend of Smith's, died of a gunshot

wound. He left a note that said "I can't go on any longer," according to police.

On Tuesday, the body of Jerry Paul McCool, a 17-year-old sophomore, was discovered in his home by his father. McCool, who also had been shot, knew Smith and Chidester, but wasn't close with them, officials said.

All three deaths were ruled suicides, said grant county Sheriff Cary Clark.

In addition to those deaths, a 17-year-old classmate shot himself to death March 28. And three other county residents — ages 22, 40, and 82 — have killed themselves since Jan 23.

Hours after the latest shooting, parents

and students packed the school's 1,000-seat auditorium to discuss the suicides. Some held hands. Some cried.

About 60 counselors and clergymen from around the state had arrived at the normally quiet bedroom community 30 miles (50 kms) south of Little Rock.

School superintendent David Robinson said students met with counselors in group sessions and one-on-one Wednesday.

"Obviously school, as such, is not occurring at the moment," Robinson said. "Actually, it's more like a massive counseling session."



David Holt and his 2-year-old son Davy waded through a flooded street on Thursday, after spring rains dumped more than 8 inches of rain on the Dallas/Fort Worth area in 36 hours. The flooding has left hundreds homeless as well as at least three people dead in the north Texas area. (Regular wirephoto)

Nine killed; crops damaged

Rain havoc in Texas

LUBBOCK, Texas, May 4, (AP): After two years of drought, the "lone star state" was badly parched. But when it finally rained, it poured.

Record downpours this spring in north-central Texas — known as the Badlands — have caused flooding, claimed nine lives, damaged crops and sent residents scrambling from their homes. Draining rain, 60-mile (100 km) per hour winds and tornadoes continued yesterday.

"Not since 1922 have we had rain like this," said Ed Delgado, spokesman for the National Weather Service in Fort Worth. "We have seen some lakes rise in water level by 4 feet (1.2 metres) overnight, and there is more rain in the forecast."

Torrential rains yesterday caused or threatened flooding from San Antonio northward and eastward into the neighbouring states of Oklahoma and Arkansas. In addition to the eight lives lost in Texas, a 9-year-old Oklahoma city boy drowned Wednesday in a rain-swollen creek, authorities said.

Some areas have had up to seven inches (18 cms) of rain in 24 hours. Twisters occasionally hit the area, including one early yesterday that touched down in the town of Paris, Texas, damaging 18 houses and businesses and injuring seven people.

Amid sheets of gray rain, cars floated through neighbourhoods, bumping into each other. While police evacuated flooded

houses, looters prowled abandoned neighbourhoods — in boats.

Two elderly men became the seventh and eighth fatalities of the weather in Texas when they abandoned their stalled car and tried to cross a street in rushing water on Wednesday in the city of Fort Worth, police said. Their bodies were found two miles (3.2 kms) away.

Agriculture officials say the rains are wreaking havoc with winter wheat. Flooding saturates the ground and cuts off the plants' supply of oxygen.

"Fields are starting to turn white, which indicates the wheat is dying," said Dr Ken Stokes, an economist for the Texas agricultural extension service.

Trump lashes Forbes' report on his assets

NEW YORK, May 4, (UPI): Donald Trump vehemently denied a recent Forbes magazine report that said his debts were much larger than commonly believed and many of his properties were purchased with borrowed money.

In an interview broadcast on ABC's "Prime Time Live," Trump lashed out at the Forbes article, saying it inaccurately computed his assets.

The real estate developer questioned the credibility of the reporter who wrote the article and criticized the magazine itself for what he said was its policy of continually trying to undercut his successes.

The Forbes article listed Trump's holdings as his three Atlantic City casino hotels, including the new

Taj Mahal, his personal residences, properties like the Trump shuttle. Their total worth comes \$3.7 billion, the magazine said.

But Forbes said many of the properties are not owned outright.

It listed Trump's debts as \$3.2 billion, leaving his empire with a net worth of \$500 million.

That figure is much too low, Trump said, claiming, for example, that the article left out income of \$34.4 million from the Taj Mahal, but added its mortgage.

"Forbes has been after me for years, consistently after me," he said. "They took properties and devalued the properties. They say the Plaza Hotel's not worth what everybody knows it's worth. They

say the Taj Mahal ... they included the debt of the Taj Mahal, but not the income."

He added: "They said that my empire is down to a mere \$500 million. I'm saying that the assets are far more valuable than they give them credit for."

But Trump would not comment on the net worth of his empire.

"Forbes is doing everything they can, possible, to make me look as bad as possible," he said. "It's a disgrace. But again, it's the same writer that wrote about Merv Griffin and consistently writes negative about Trump."

The programme said the reporter, Richard Stern, had erroneously reported previously that Griffin had bested Trump in a business deal.

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PEOPLE AND PLACES

WASHINGTON: A Springfield, Mass., pediatrician reports in a medical journal that one of his patients was scared into constipation by a television commercial that showed a toilet turning into a biting monster.

Dr. Virgil R. Pilapil, writing in the April issue of Pediatrics, said a 3-year-old boy was brought to his office for treatment of constipation after the youngster refused to use the family bathroom at home.

The child's functions had all been normal throughout his life and he had been thoroughly toilet-trained for two months, the doctor said. But then the boy started refusing to move his bowels and eventually would do so only in a diaper while standing up. And he refused to say why the sudden change in habits.

"Finally," Pilapil writes, "he gave in to his mother's constant asking and told her that he had seen a television commercial ... in which a toilet bowl was portrayed as turning into a monster, with the seat cover making a chomping movement." (AP)

TAIPEI: Buy a bullet-proof vest in crime-plagued Taiwan and the maker throws in a pair of safety underpants.

The manufacturer of the vests thought up the idea of matching bullet-proof briefs to boost sales of his summer line, the United Evening News said yesterday.

Bullet-proof vests are in hot demand in Taiwan because of the large numbers of guns smuggled from China and the Philippines that are in criminal hands. (Reuter)

BATHURST, Australia: Australian prisoners broke into an office in their jail during a warders' strike and ordered 312 "home-delivered" pizzas.

Two hours later 140 pizzas worth \$1,200 were delivered in three cars to a surprised skeleton staff at the gate of Bathurst jail.

Warders cancelled the remaining 172 pizzas ordered Tuesday from a Pizza Hut outlet in this New South Wales coastal town.

The New South Wales Corrective Services Ministry said the state government would pay for the first delivery.

"They (the pizza parlour) did everything by the book, they weren't to know this was all a scam," a spokesman said.

"We had to feed the prisoners for dinner, so the warden took the pizzas and asked for a bulk discount."

The spokesman said the prisoners ordered 18 tonnes of ready-mix concrete for delivery to the jail. Warders declined to accept it. (Reuter)

LOS ANGELES: David Rappaport, a dwarf who played a devious lawyer known as "Mighty Mouth" on the television series "L.A. Law," was found dead in a park of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, police said.

Earlier this year, the actor attempted suicide by inhaling automobile exhaust. Rappaport's body was found Wednesday evening at Laurel Canyon Park in the San Fernando valley, said Sgt. Willem Davidson.

In addition to "L.A. Law," Rappaport starred in the 1986-87 series "The Wizard," about a scientist who invented high-tech toys and gadgets. (AP)

NEW YORK: Simultaneous memorial musical tributes for jazz great Dexter Gordon will take place Sunday in Harlem, Los Angeles, Paris and Copenhagen, Gordon's family announced yesterday.

Gordon, a saxophone player who lived in Europe for many years, died last week in Philadelphia at the age of 67.

In accordance with his wishes, Gordon's body will be cremated and his ashes scattered at sea, his family said.

In 1966, Gordon received an Academy Award nomination in the best actor category for his starring role in the movie "Round Midnight" for his portrayal of an American jazz musician living in Paris in the 1950s.

Gordon, born Feb 27, 1923, in Los Angeles, was one of the foremost tenor players on the 1940s bebop jazz scene. His playing influenced Sonny Rollins and John Coltrane, who built on his probing, rhythmic style. (UPI)

Hunk needs tuition

NEW YORK, May 4, (AP): John F. Kennedy Jr., his job as an assistant prosecutor in jeopardy, will be tutored for the bar exam, according to a published report.

"We'd like to help him pass the bar exam," said Stanley Chess, the director of Bar-Bri, which specializes in training law school graduates for the bar, the New York Daily News reported.

"He intends to begin his preparation shortly and we're going to assign a specific attorney in our office," Erica Fine — to assist him," Chess said. "She's probably the best tutor available."

Kennedy, only son of President John F. Kennedy, learned last week that he failed the bar examination for the second time.

If he fails a third time, the 29-year-old will automatically lose his job at the Manhattan prosecutor's office.

In-laws helpful

BOSTON, May 4, (Reuter): The mother-in-law — that most maligned on family members — does not deserve her reputation as a meddling nuisance, according to a US researcher.

But sceptics he warned: in-laws are also living longer and wielding greater influence over their children's affairs.

"Mothers don't ask to be mother-in-law," Dr Juliet Gauchat said.

Gauchat, a social worker who conducted her research at Boston University, also questioned the age-old jokes that portray everyone's mother-in-law as "intrusive, meddling and manipulative."

She said in-laws can be financially and emotionally helpful and deserve more respect.

Boston University professor Dr Eileen Nickerson said more women work now, making in-laws more important.

NEW YORK: The artistic director of the Joffrey Ballet, one of the top dance companies in the United States, has quit and withdrawn his works from the company's repertory.

Gerald Arpino resigned Tuesday after the Joffrey board of directors voted to set up an operating committee that would run company in place of both Arpino and the current 55-member board of directors, the New York Times reported yesterday.

Ten board members resigned in protest at what one called a takeover by businessmen ignorant of artistic matters.

Arpino, a leading dancer and choreographer with the critically acclaimed Modern Dance Company since its early days in the mid-1950s, became artistic director in 1988 after the death of founder Robert Joffrey.

"I refuse to participate in an organisation which I believe has lost its moral and ethical foundation," Arpino said in a statement.

He also said he would not permit the Joffrey to use any works that belong to him or to Robert Joffrey's estate.

The dispute at the Joffrey, based in New York and Los Angeles, stems in part from a budget deficit of about \$2 million. (AP)

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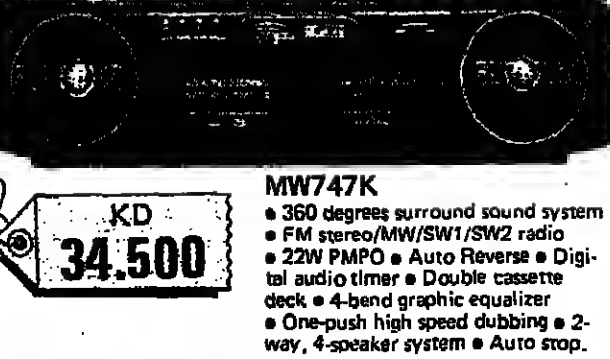
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Student academic achievement falls in US

WASHINGTON, May 4, (AP): Student academic achievement in the United States fell for the third straight year and fewer graduated from secondary school, the Education Department said Wednesday.

The results from the annual state-by-state performance chart prompted Education Secretary Lauro Cavazos to call for "a total commitment to the reform and restructuring of our education system."

"Although we have had some laudable reform efforts during the past 15 years, it is clear that as a nation we are still not seriously committed to working for positive change in our education system," said Cavazos.

Key findings of the report, popularly known as the "wall chart," included the following:

- The national secondary school graduation rate declined from 71.7 per cent to 71.1 per cent from 1987 to 1988. Graduation requires successful completion of 12 years of education.

Students protest professor's racial views

NEW YORK, May 4, (AP): Angry students tried to storm the auditorium during a speech by a professor who believes blacks are inferior, and nine people were arrested and five police officers injured, authorities said.

Michael Levin, a philosophy professor at City College, gave a speech Wednesday at Long Island University's Brooklyn campus defending the argument that white fear of black crime is logical and normally correct, said Frank Post, a spokesman for the university.

Police formed a blockade at the

auditorium's doors and kept the protesters from entering, Post said.

Levin has written in academic journals that on average, blacks are less intelligent than whites.

"The difference in intelligence is inarguable," Levin was quoted as saying by the New York Post newspaper. "There's good evidence that there's a significant genetic contribution" to that alleged difference, he added.

In his speech, Levin said whites "have a right to be afraid of blacks" and called such fear "reasonable."

After Levin had finished speaking, one of the protesters outside yelled that the professor should be removed from the campus, Post said.

Of the nine people who were arrested, seven were charged with disorderly conduct, one was charged with harassment and one was charged with riot and assaulting a police officer, said police spokesman Fred Weiner.

The university, whose student population is 70 per cent black, had considered revoking Levin's invitation to its urban ethics conference, Post said.

Sussex varsity study contends

British science losing

LONDON, May 4, (Kuna): British science is losing its "world class presence" in fields that are important for future technology, according to a report published here Thursday.

It pointed out that by 1987 scientists were about £300 million a year worse off than their European counterparts, even though government spending on academic science rose by 15 per cent in real terms between 1980 and 1987.

The study was carried out by the British Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex University, southern England, which analysed public expenditure on academic science in a number of industrial countries, and scientists' output.

Scientists are doing more applied research, whereas basic science has declined, the study carried by the independent newspaper indicated.

Contras won't hand in firearms

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, May 4, (AP): US-supported Contras go into talks today on their demobilization insisting that the army, still led by Sandinistas, be dismantled at the same time.

President Violeta Barrio de Chamorro's government immediately rejected the demand. UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said earlier yesterday he considered the holdup in demobilization "a matter of grave concern."

Chamorro and her United Nations Opposition beat the Sandinistas in recent elections, but kept Sandinista Gen. Humberto Ortega as chief of staff and promised to respect the structure of an army that has fought the Contras for a decade.

Aristides Sanchez, a Contra spokesman, implied Thursday that the rebels will not hand in their weapons to United Nations representatives by June 10, as they had pledged to do in an April 19 agreement.

"One doesn't have to be so airtight about it," Sanchez replied when asked if the rebels planned to meet the deadline.

Sanchez, who is a civilian adviser to the Contra leaders, said complete dismantling of the Sandinista army simultaneous with rebel dissolution "is what the people of Nicaragua ask for, that is what the people want, and we should support that."

Roberto Ferrey, a spokesman for Chamorro's government and himself a former Contra, said the government would not "in principle" consider acceding to the rebel demand.

"June 10 is the deadline. It's not possible to change it," Ferrey added.

Sanchez spoke to reporters shortly after arriving in Managua from a rebel hideout in hill country with Israel Galeano, the top Contra chief, and four members of Galeano's general staff.

Ferrey, who represents Chamorro in the peace talks with the rebels, said the meeting with the Contras on Friday "is to discuss security issues and guarantees for their demobilization and disarmament according to the accords."

Gen. Ortega, said on US television Thursday that, even with desertions and cutbacks, he plans to keep an army of 40,000. The Sandinistas never gave figures on the size of their army, but estimates put it at between 120,000 and 150,000 making it the largest armed force in Central America.



Gun cleaning after clashes

A spate of small-scale attacks by leftist rebels left 21 guerrillas and five government soldiers dead in a 24-hour period, the military said Thursday.

Six civilians were also wounded in the fighting, which began Tuesday night and escalated Wednesday when rebels fired shots at President Alfredo Cristiani's home and crippled a power substation, the military said.

"We have made a casualty count for the past 24 hours and the terrorists have suffered numerous dead," said a military spokesman Thursday morning. He said the 21 rebels and five soldiers died between Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

The capital was calm Thursday following the attacks by the rebels of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, or FMLN, who have been fighting successive US-backed governments for over a decade.

Wednesday's attack on Cristiani's home was a continuation of an offensive launched in several cities, including the capital, on Tuesday night. The FMLN said Wednesday in a communiqué that the offensive was aimed at pressuring the government into serious negotiations at peace talks expected to start this month.

Cristiani and US officials maintain a military defeat of the FMLN is not feasible, and influential members of the US Congress are pressuring El Salvador's right-wing government to hold meaningful negotiations with the leftist rebels.

More than 72,000 people have been killed in the decade-old war and related political violence — most of them civilians, thousands at the hands of right-wing death squads — and officials estimate the fighting has cost the nation's economy some \$4 billion. In the picture, two Salvadoran soldiers clean their guns after clashes with FMLN. (Reuter wirephoto)

Car bomb kills 5

Bogota supermarket destroyed

BOGOTA, May 4, (Reuters): A car bomb destroyed a supermarket last night, killing five people and wounding 23 in an attack which could signal a new feud between powerful Colombian cocaine cartels.

The 100-kg (220-pound) bomb ripped through Central Cali, 300 km (180 miles) southwest of Bogota, destroying the La Rebaja supermarket and damaging 20 shops and houses, a police spokesman said.

Dozens of branches of La Rebaja, a national chain, were attacked during a bloody feud between the Medellin and Cali cocaine cartels from 1987 to 1989.

The chain has been linked in published accounts to Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, also known as "the chess player," the reputed head of the Cali cartel.

The two cartels, which together supply 80 per cent of the cocaine used in the United States, clashed then over control of the lucrative American markets.

A police spokesman in Cali said five people were killed, including a three-year-old child, and 23 injured in the blast. No one claimed responsibility.

Firefighters tackled a blaze which raged through the super-

market. Electricity in the area was cut, local radio said.

Violence has swept Colombia since a tentative truce between the drug barons and the government broke down in late March and the drug traffickers declared a new offensive.

The violence has focused on Medellin, headquarters of the most powerful cocaine cartel, where 30 people have been killed in two car bomb blasts and about 30 policemen shot dead in the past month.

Police also blame drug barons for the murder of two leftist presidential candidates assassinated since March although the drug lords deny the charge.

The government announced new measures yesterday to cut the risk of assassination for candidates in the May 27 presidential election. It increased television and radio time for the four leading candidates and said it would give money to each candidate to pay for newspaper advertising and transport.

Meanwhile, Colombian pilots, alarmed by the assassination of a presidential candidate aboard an airliner, decided yesterday to bar bodyguards or other armed people from flights with civilian passengers.

Their decision poses a new

problem for heavily-guarded candidates in May 27 elections who already face severe restrictions on campaign tours around Colombia.

The Colombian Civil Aviators' Association, grouping the nation's pilots, supported a pilot who last Friday turned former President Misael Pastrana and his bodyguards off a commercial flight because of risk to passengers.

The incident happened a day after a gunman shot dead Carlos Pizarro, candidate for the leftist M-19 movement, aboard an airliner. Pizarro's 12 bodyguards immediately shot dead the gunman. Shots shattered several aircraft windows but no passengers were harmed.

A group of extreme Colombian right-wingers that included drug traffickers ordered the assassination of two leftist presidential candidates, La Prensa newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The opposition daily, quoting intelligence sources, said the group began to plan the murders of candidates Carlos Pizarro and Bernardo Jaramillo five months ago on a farm owned by drug baron Fidel Castano, a leading figure in the Medellin drug cartel.

On a cliff top above the sparkling blue Caribbean, off-duty US servicemen in shorts gathered to play soccer or baseball.

"The calm is dangerous," Lieutenant-Colonel Rene Ramirez of the Cuban Frontier Force told Western reporters who visited Cuban forward posts on Wednesday. "This isn't just propaganda, there is a mobilisation going on."

Havana says that three major US military exercises — "Global Shield", "Ocean Venture" and "Defex" — are being held simultaneously for the first time in the Caribbean and are directly aimed against Cuba.

Noriega was on several payrolls

MARION, Illinois, May 4, (UPI): Deposed Panamanian Gen. Manuel Noriega was on the intelligence payrolls of several countries at the same time he charged drug traffickers to use his island as a safe haven, convicted Colombian drug smuggler Carlos Lehder said.

On the television show "prime time live" Lehder, who is serving time plus 135 years in prison at the federal prison in Marion, Illinois, told Diane Sawyer yesterday that Noriega "double crossed everybody" and tortured drug dealers so they would pay him more.

"Noriega was always on the payroll of American intelligence, but he was always also on the payroll of the Soviet intelligence, of the Cuban intelligence, and Israel intelligence," he said. "But at the same time he was on the payroll of some Colombian traffickers. He was working every side of the corner."

The television interview was Lehder's first since he was convicted in May 1988 of smuggling 3.3 tons of cocaine into the United States. His case is on appeal, so he refused to talk directly about his involvement in the drug trade.

He said he was in the "airplane business," he said he also gave about \$20 million to the Nicaraguan contras.

He told Sawyer he would not testify against Noriega because he felt Latin Americans needed to stick together against US pressure.

In a letter to Noriega this week, Lehder said the fallen Panamanian strongman should plead guilty and chastised him for informing on drug dealers for the US government before his downfall.

The letter also said Lehder, 40, would not testify against Noriega, "because despite your sins, we are of the same, fraternal latin race."

Noriega, 51, is at the metropolitan correctional center in Miami awaiting trial on drug trafficking charges that could bring him up to 145 years and \$1.1 million in fines if he is convicted.

Lehder, whose capture in 1987 was heralded as a major victory in the war against drugs, talked a little about his life of luxury on the island of Norman's Cay, south of Nassau, Bahamas. Authorities said the island was a safe haven and refueling stop for Colombian planes loaded with drugs bound for the United States.

They said he made at least \$300 million a year in the smuggling business and was responsible for developing the first major drug smuggling network in the United States. That network eventually became the vehicle for the powerful Medellin cocaine cartel of Colombia and is responsible for most of the illicit contraband that reaches the United States.

"Henry Ford pioneered the mass production of cars. Lehder pioneered the mass transportation of cocaine to the United States," said former US attorney Robert Merkle, prosecutor for Lehder's 7 1/2-month trial in Jacksonville, Florida.

20 rebels die in Peru shootout

LIMA, May 4, (AP): The army killed 20 rebels in a battle near the jungle town of Ayacucho, a coca-producing area of Peru's department 23 miles (375 km) northeast of here, a military spokesman said Wednesday.

In Lima, the Maoist Shining Path rebels Wednesday bombed a government-run livestock sperm bank, destroying three storage tanks of semen worth millions of dollars, authorities said.

The country is plagued by left-

Quayle: target of jokes

Vice-president ridiculed

WASHINGTON, May 4, (Reuters): Vice-president Dan Quayle, perhaps the only major US politician to have a quarterly publication devoted exclusively to him, has spawned a small but healthy cottage industry in the 16 months he has been in office.

Quayle has been a target for ridicule from the media and from comedians since the day George Bush plucked the youthful Indiana senator from relative obscurity and made him his running mate in the 1988 presidential election campaign.

"The Quayle Quarterly" is one of many items produced by entrepreneurs profiting from Quayle's image as a humbling, clownish lightweight.

Quayle paraphernalia ranges from T-shirts, buttons, bumper stickers and doormats to a Quayle watch.

More than a year as vice-president and a series of foot-in-mouth gaffes have done little to improve his image.

A recent poll found that 52 per cent of the American population think Quayle is not qualified to be president — the job he would immediately assume if Bush died.

The Quayle Quarterly (sold at \$3.95) was founded by a husband-and-wife team who say there is a keen appetite for information on Quayle by citizens who worry about the prospect of him succeeding Bush.

Such fears are being reinforced on a regular basis by comedians, especially on television, who seem to draw on an inexhaustible supply of Quayle jokes to entertain their late-night audiences.

There are many examples.

"The vice-president left on a trip to Central America today and said on departure he was looking forward to seeing Central America again, especially Ohio, Indiana and Nebraska."

"The Treasury has begun selling Quayle savings bonds. The problem with them is that they take 48 years to mature," Quayle is 43.

According to the Quayle Quarterly's publisher, Jeffrey Loder, collecting Quayle information and Quayle trivia has become "a kind of cult" among enough Americans to create a market for a new publication.

The first issue of the 16-page quarterly included "The Quayle trail," a world map tracing the vice-president's travels and some of the statements critics cite as proof that he is not presidential material.

In Samoa, for example, Quayle addressed a welcoming crowd in April 1989 with these words: "You all look like happy campers to me. Happy campers you are, happy campers you have been and, as far as I'm concerned, happy campers you will always be."

In March this year Quayle informed a meeting of Arizona Republicans: "If we do not succeed, then we run the risk of failure."

But there are also earnest articles in the quarterly, including a review of a think tank's analysis of the office of the vice-president entitled "a heartbeat away." It notes that US presidential candidates tend to look for potential vice-presidents that do not outshine them.

The second issue of the Quayle quarterly devoted half a page to what it called "The doll episode."

During a visit to Chile, Quayle bought an anatomically explicit doll whose private part rose when the figure's head was lifted. A dozen reporters watched the purchase and the Chilean doll made international headlines.

Advertisements in the Quayle Quarterly come from such organisations as "Quaylephrenia" and the "President's Prayer Club."

The former offers cassette tapes of Quayle misstatements.

The latter urges readers to "Join our growing organisation of patriots dedicated to the good



Author Tom Clancy with Dan Quayle

RNC man blamed

Student raped

WACO, Texas, May 4, (UPI): A member of Vice-President Dan Quayle's advance team was relieved of his duties after it was disclosed he was being investigated in the possible sexual assault of a college student, officials said yesterday.

Waco police and prosecutors said an investigation is under way into an allegation by a Baylor University student, 18, who claims she was sexually assaulted Sunday morning in the man's hotel room.

The unidentified man, 26, told authorities he had sex with the college freshman with her consent, said Waco police officer Lionel McGee. No charges have been filed in the case.

The man, an employee of the Republican National Committee, came "highly recommended," said Leslie Goodman, a spokeswoman for the organization in Washington. The RNC said he joined the organisation last week as a consultant and the Quayle advance work was his first assignment.

Members of Vice-President's advance team have been in Waco for several days preparing for Quayle's visit to attend fund-raiser for state Rep. Hugh Shine. R-Waco, the Republican candidate in the 11th congressional district.

The man's name was withheld by the police, the Vice-President's office and the RNC.

"This is a most deplorable incident," David Beckwith, the Vice-President's press secretary, said in a statement.

health and well-being of our 41st president (Bush).

It sells T-shirts emblazoned with a portrait of Quayle and the legend "President's Prayer Club — keep George healthy."

While the Quayle Quarterly's circulation is modest so far, editor Deborah Werksman, the publisher's wife, takes heart from the fact that Time magazine recently devoted a cover story to the vice-president.

Show amuses Peruvians

Millions tune in to TV satire

LIMA, May 4, (Reuters): Six nights a week, millions of Peruvians tune in to a television show to forget the country's many problems and laugh at their leaders.

The popular satirical programme, "Juntos pero no Revueltos" (All together but everyone in his place), depicts Peru's leading politicians as foam plastic dolls that speak in parodies of themselves.

Modelled on Britain's acclaimed "Spitting Image", the top-rated programme has become the place to be seen in Peru's rough-and-tumble world of politics.

Politicians love to be portrayed on the show because of the publicity it gives them, even if the way they are satirised is not always flattering.

"We try to get people to forget about the economic crisis and terrorism for a few minutes and laugh a bit before the nightly news — because the news is nothing to laugh at," said the show's creator, Manuel Passara.

The country is plagued by left-



A puppet dressed as a candidate, Alberto Fujimori (left), tries to hit a puppet dressed as candidate Mario Vargas Llosa. The two presidential candidates are satirized in a daily TV show which is popular with Peruvian viewers. (Reuter wirephoto)

ist guerrilla violence and its economy is in a shambles.

Among those to fall victim to Passara's acid wit is Alberto Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants who shocked Peru's political establishment by becoming the favourite to win the presidential election

scheduled either for May 27 or June 3.

Passara portrays him as a Japanese warrior dressed in a black cape with oriental lettering and a long stick in his hand who greets traditional politicians with the words: "Off with his head, dammit."

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MEDICAL FILE

Drug prevents fractures: A drug can reverse the loss of vertebral bone and prevent fractures in older women with osteoporosis, a common cause of disability among the elderly, according to a study.

Danish doctors who tested the medicine, called Etidronate, found that while it halted the loss of bone in the spine, it did not affect bones in other parts of the body.

Osteoporosis is blamed for 1.3 million fractures annually in people over age 45. It is especially common among older women, when their bodies make less estrogen after menopause.

The research, directed by Dr Tommy Storm at Sundby Hospital in Copenhagen, was published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine. It was financed by Procter and Gamble's Norwich Eaton Pharmaceuticals, which makes Etidronate.

The doctors performed a three-year comparison study on 66 women who ranged from age 56 to 75. When it was over, they found that the vertebral bone mineral content of those who got the drug increased 7 per cent. But it decreased 3 per cent in a comparison group who got dummy pills. The number of vertebral fractures also decreased substantially in the Etidronate group.

"Although we do not know whether the dose and treatment regimen used in our study are optimal, our results are encouraging," the researchers wrote. (AP)

Aids virus gene promotes cancer: Scientists have found new evidence that a single gene of the Aids virus promotes an Aids-related cancer called Kaposi's Sarcoma.

The gene tells cells to produce a particular protein, and the new test-tube study found that this protein spurred the growth of Kaposi's Sarcoma cells taken from Aids patients.

Scientists also found that the protein was released by cells infected with the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. Kaposi's Sarcoma is a generally uncommon cancer that appears unusually often in people with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. It can be controlled medically and it rarely kills Aids patients.

The study focused on a gene called tat, which helps regulate growth of the Aids virus. In previous research, scientists had found that when mice were given a copy of this gene, they developed a skin disease that closely resembled Kaposi's Sarcoma.

Combined with that finding, the new work indicates that once the gene's protein escapes from an Aids-infected cell, it may promote the development or progression of Kaposi's Sarcoma elsewhere in the body, researchers wrote in Thursday's issue of the British journal Nature. (AP)

Drug fails to relieve disease: An experimental Alzheimer's disease drug fails to provide lasting benefits for victims of the devastating disorder, even though some initially seem to respond to the treatment, according to a study.

The research did not show "a significant clinical benefit" from the drug, known as tetrahydropyridine, or THA. Alzheimer's disease is a progressive degeneration of the brain cells.

Initially, doctors gave increasing doses to see how much of the medicine patients could tolerate without harmful side effects. During this phase of the research, some patients appeared to get better. Family members said their speech improved, and they were able to do simple tasks such as answering the telephone or setting the table.

During the next part of the research, 39 patients were randomly assigned to take THA or placebo. This time, the apparent benefits did not return, and there was no important difference between the groups.

The researchers speculated that patients might have built up a resistance to the drug or that family members might have imagined the seemingly early improvement. (AP)

Firm gets monopoly: US regulators are moving to adopt new standards for the menopause drug oestrogen, an action that would give one pharmaceutical firm a monopoly on a market estimated at nearly \$500 million a year world-wide.

Only one company, Philadelphia-based Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories, would be able to market the product in this country if the Food and Drug Administration follows through on a plan to change its standard for approval of generic versions of the popular drug. FDA officials acknowledge.

Wyeth, which sells its oestrogen product under the name Premarin and has an estimated 60 per cent share of the world market for the drug, is owned by New York-based American Home Products Corp., one of the nation's largest drug companies.

Oestrogen is increasingly prescribed for post-menopausal women over long periods of time as a treatment for osteoporosis, a bone-deteriorating malady common in older women, as well as menopause symptoms. (Reuters)

Irradiation makes headway: Despite fears heightened by Chernobyl, much of the food the next generation eats will have been irradiated to make it safer, the World Health Organisation said.

WHO believes foodborne diseases may become the second largest cause of mortality in Europe after respiratory ailments. There is a simple cure, it says: irradiation.

Dr Fritz Kuster, head of WHO's food safety division, told Reuters: "When frozen food was introduced people were convinced all the goodness was being taken out of it but today it is found in all supermarkets. The same will happen with irradiated food."

WHO experts dismiss concerns over the safety and nutritional aspects of food irradiation, saying lengthy research on animals has shown there are no long-term health effects.

And the process does not affect taste or smell, they assure food-lovers. Bowing to pressure from the greens, the West German government has not yet sanctioned the exposure of food to X-rays, Gamma rays or electron beams. (Reuters)



Paleontologist Robert Bakker of the University of Colorado has identified a new dinosaur—a 20 pound herbivore—and other tiny creatures that flourished while giant dinosaurs were dying off. Clockwise from lower right: Drinker, the little dinosaur, Zofabaaar, nicknamed "Mutant Ninja Chipmunk," Foxraptor, an eight-oz carnivore, and Utuops, a neurologically advanced turtle. (Reuters wirephoto)

New discoveries made

Tiny dinosaurs' remains found

WASHINGTON, May 4. (Reuters) New discoveries of tiny dinosaurs and other little creatures that flourished millions of years ago while huge dinosaurs were dying are adding to the mystery of what killed off the big beasts, a noted scientist said on Wednesday.

Paleontologist Robert Bakker of the University of Colorado said scientists uncovered fossils and identified a new dinosaur—a long-tailed, 20-pound (9 kg) grass and plant-eating animal that lived in Wyoming some 130 million years ago.

The two-foot-long (61 cm) dinosaur was named by Bakker this week "Drinker Nisi"—and nicknamed Little Big Foot.

Bakker and other scientists found it and three other newly-found remains of creatures in the so-called Breakfast Bench fossil area Bakker identified in the 1970s.

The other petrified bones were those of two fierce, rodent-like mammals weighing less than a pound (0.4 kg) each and a turtle described as neurologically sophisticated.

Bakker said they thrived in a swampy environment between 130 million years ago when many dinosaurs were dying off and 65 million years later when scientists believe the behemoths finally became extinct—clearing the way for the emergence of mammals, which dominate the earth today.

"These petrified bones fill in one of the most important gaps in dinosaurian history, documenting a time when strange events exterminated many dinosaur families," he said.

"Almost every species dug up here is new to science and is so different that new general had to

be created in order to describe them," he said.

In an interview, Bakker said there were several mass extinctions in ancient history in which many of the huge dinosaurs died while small animals flourished.

"That's the clue to this serial killer—the event out there in the eco-system that zapped these animals," he said.

Hans Sues of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History's Department of Paleobiology in Washington called "wild" Bakker's claim that a "serial killer"—something in the environment that might have stalked the dinosaur—killed them off. But he and the department's head, Jack Pierce, found interesting his uncovering of the new creatures.

"He does have a very interesting new dinosaur and little animals there," Sues told Reuters.

The Return of The Ultimate

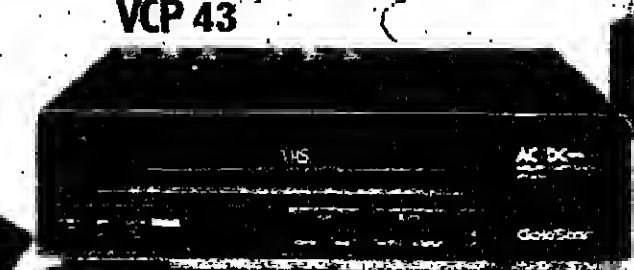
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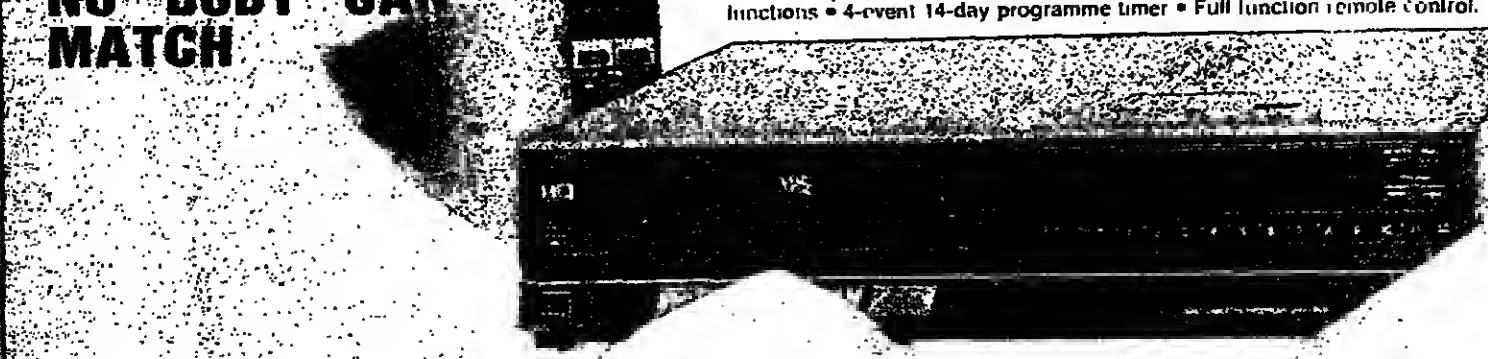


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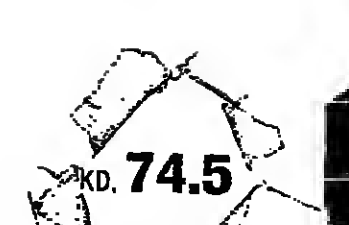


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GV 66



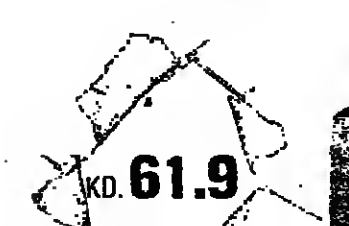
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Big breakthrough

Mandela, De Klerk looking relaxed after talks

CAPE TOWN, May 4, (AP): The government and the African National Congress announced today they made an "important breakthrough" in agreeing to work together to end political violence in South Africa.

President F.W. de Klerk and ANC leader Nelson Mandela, looking relaxed after three days of talks, told a news conference they made major progress toward creating a normal political climate.

They said such a climate would clear the way for bringing blacks into

the national government.

Mandela and De Klerk, tackling a major obstacle to formal negotiations on a political settlement, said in a statement that a joint working group would be set up to recommend mechanisms for the release of political prisoners.

"I regard what is contained in this document as an important breakthrough in the peace process," De Klerk said.

Environment meeting calls for global Marshall Plan

WASHINGTON, May 4, (AP): An international conference of legislators called for immediate action to curb "greenhouse" pollutants Wednesday and recommended a "global Marshall Plan" to help developing countries cope with environmental problems.

Concluding a three-day environment conference, the delegates from 42 countries urged nations to commit without delay to curbing the pollution that causes global warming by a total of 50 per cent over the next 20 years.

The actions by the interparliamentary conference on the global environment are little more than suggestions for an

environmental outline and are not binding on any country. But many of the delegates to the conference, hosted by the US Congress, said they would return home to push for legislation along the lines outlined.

The aggressive strategies on global warming contrasted to the approach favoured by US President George Bush and senior White House officials. Bush two weeks ago told an international White House conference on the environment that more research was needed before any commitments are made for specific pollution controls.

The two sides also issued a joint communiqué outlining steps to end political violence and remove remaining obstacles to full-scale constitutional negotiations.

Violence

"The government and the ANC agree on a common commitment towards the resolution of the existing climate of violence and intimidation from whatever quarter as well as a commitment to stability and to a peaceful process of negotiations," the joint statement said.

It said a working group would report by May 21 on ways to overcome remaining obstacles to the full-scale constitutional negotiations.

De Klerk told the news conference no date had been set for further talks between the two sides.

The two leaders said their talks had been an important step forward. They praised each other's sincerity and determination to find a peaceful solution to South Africa's racial divisions.

"I look to the future with confidence," De Klerk said. Mandela said the most striking feature of the negotiations had been there "cordiality."

Five steps

"We have had discussions on sensitive matters in a spirit of conciliation and understanding," he said.

The joint statement outlined five steps to be taken to try to settle remaining ANC demands for full-scale negotiations.

- establishing the working group to handle practical matters;
- granting of temporary immunity from prosecution from political offenses for selected top ANC officials;
- a government review of existing security legislation;
- establishing channels of communication between the two sides to halt violence.

The declaration said the government committed itself "to work towards the lifting of the state of emergency" — a key ANC demand.

"In this context, the ANC will exert itself to fulfill the objective contained in the preamble," the communiqué said, referring to the statement on seeking a peaceful climate.

Emergency

The state of emergency, in effect since June 1986, gives police sweeping powers of detention. The black nationalist group says it is used by police to suppress political activity and peaceful dissent.

The government says it wants to lift the emergency, but that it remains necessary to combat black faction fighting that has claimed more than 600 lives this year.

The ANC also is seeking amnesty for its estimated 15,000 exiles and the release of all prisoners convicted of politically motivated crimes.

So far, De Klerk has released some political activists convicted of acts that did not involve violence and offered temporary immunity to ANC officials involved in the talks.

Legislation that could provide amnesty to exiles and prisoners is under consideration in Parliament.

Foreign trip

De Klerk heads for Europe next week on the most extensive foreign trip by a South African leader since the White National Party came to power in 1948, an official said today.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Pieter Swanepoel said De Klerk would travel to at least seven countries in just over two weeks for a series of working visits.

Gummen killed a 60-year-old priest and a policeman in separate attacks in South Africa's strife-torn Natal province, police said today.

The reverend Victor Africaner driving with his six-year-old daughter near the provincial capital of Pietermaritzburg when he was shot in the head and chest. The child was wounded.

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French opposition prepares censure of govt

Anti-racism draft adopted

PARIS, May 4, (UPI): The national assembly adopted yesterday a communist bill that would strip people convicted of inciting racial hatred of many civic rights for up to five years including the right to hold public office and perform jury service.

The deputies in the lower house of parliament voted by 307 to 265 in favour of the draft law "to repress every racist, anti-Semitic and xenophobic act." Political experts said the vote was a setback for right-wing extremist Jean-Marie Le Pen, who has described the proposed legislation as undemocratic, and recently was stripped of his immunity as a member of the European Parliament.

The legislation, which has to be ratified by the Senate, would deprive for up to five years

people convicted of inciting racial hatred of the right to stand in elections, remove their eligibility for jury service and bar them from government employment.

In an evident counter-attack, a co-ordinating committee of the main conservative opposition groupings presented motion of censure against the socialist government today over the amnestying of a number of socialist politicians indicted for corruption. The motion will be debated and voted on next week.

The Communist Party said it would not support the censure motion, meaning it would almost certainly not be passed. But a series of whitewashings of scandal-tainted local socialist politicians, including nine cleared or amnestied Wednesday by local magistrates

after indictment in a bribery scandal, has contributed to the declining popularity of President Francois Mitterrand registered in opinion polls recently, political experts say.

The legislators considering the anti-racism law adopted 10 amendments tabled by Prime Minister Michel Rocard's Socialists including one deleting a clause that would have deprived offenders of their right to vote.

Two other amendments passed cancelled a clause in the original communist proposal that would have stripped of civil rights editors and journalists of publications publishing racist statements.

The opposition rally for the Republic Party and Union of French Democracy Federation voted against the bill but the Socialists supported it.

Winnie Mandela accused of torture

JOHANNESBURG, May 4, (Reuters): A South African court heard yesterday that Winnie Mandela and her bodyguards tortured a teenage activist into confessing he was a police informer.

Prosecution witness Kenneth Kgase said 14-year-old Stompie Seipei screamed in pain while making the admission and was so badly hurt he was unable to eat or write afterwards.

Kgase, 30, spoke during the murder trial of Jerry Richardson, Winnie Mandela's chief bodyguard during the last years of her husband Nelson's long imprisonment, the South African Press Association reported.

Richardson, 41, who led a self-styled football team guarding Mrs Mandela, denies murdering Seipei. The teenager was found dead in a ditch with his throat cut in January 1989.

Before giving evidence to the Supreme Court in Johannesburg yesterday Kgase made an unsuccessful application to testify in private, saying he feared for his life.

Mrs Mandela has said her associates removed Seipei and three others from a Methodist-run shelter in Soweto township to protect them from homosexual abuse by a white priest, an allegation denied by the church.

Kgase, one of the four, has said that once they were in Mrs Mandela's house, she accused them of sexual misconduct, alleged Seipei was a police spy and slapped, punched and whipped them.

Screamed

For several days they were held in an outhouse at Mrs Mandela's Soweto home where Seipei was continuously interrogated and tortured, Kgase said. He did not specify how this was done.

At one stage Stompie screamed and admitted he had "sold out" four associates to the police, Kgase said.

Richardson's court appearance has reopened a scandal surrounding Mrs Mandela as an ANC team led by Nelson Mandela was starting talks with the government on dismantling apartheid.

Mrs Mandela has admitted that one of her guards beat Seipei to persuade him to testify against the clergyman but she said Seipei left her house alive. She has denied any wrongdoing.

Besides murder, Richardson faces 10 related charges.

Kgase said he last saw Seipei on the night of January 1, 1989, when Richardson entered the outhouse and ordered Seipei to accompany him, adding he would be taking him to his home.

The Seipei case brought controversy over the behaviour of the football team to a head, prompting black community leaders temporarily to disown Mrs Mandela.

After a period of eclipse, she has resumed a prominent role at the side of her husband, freed from prison in February after serving 27 years for plotting to overthrow white rule.

After reports of the incident surfaced early last year, anti-apartheid leaders harshly denounced Mrs Mandela and accused her of "complicity in the abductions and assault."

The activists said her bodyguards, known as the Mandela United Soccer Club, had waged a "reign of terror" in Soweto.



Wow, what an art!

A truckload of people ends overtop of a martial arts expert during a demonstration on Friday at the Workers Palace near Tiananmen Square in Beijing. This performance was to mark the anniversary of the May 4 movement, a protest movement recognised by the government and used by students to force political change. (Reuters wirephoto)

Nuclear plants conditions awful

Reports reveal failures

WASHINGTON, May 4, (AP): The Energy Department for the first time is allowing a keyhole glimpse at the daily goings-on in the secretive world of its nuclear bomb builders.

The view is incomplete, but among the things you can see are drug use, thievery, fires, computer tampering, equipment failures and almost daily contamination of workers by plutonium or other lethal or toxic nuclear weapons materials.

And that's just the unclassified stuff.

The failings are catalogued in a 6-inch (15-centimetre) stack of internal reports made public by the Energy Department on Monday, six weeks after a department contractor made their existence known by mistakenly sending copies of one report to governors' offices.

The release of the papers, called Daily Operations Reports and written for Energy Secretary James D. Watkins, marks a significant, if limited, crack in the wall of secrecy behind which the nuclear arms makers have operated for nearly a half-century.

The weapons plants are owned by the Energy Department but operated by private contractors.

The reports, covering the period of Aug 24, 1989, to

present, describe problems ranging in seriousness from safety lapses at the Savannah River nuclear reactors, to concern about "media noise" over environmental problems at the rocky flat arid lands near Denver, to an offsite fight between Savannah River electricians in South Carolina.

Much of the information, presented in a shorthand form with little or no explanation, had not previously been made public.

Watkins told a group of weapons plant critics on Monday that the reports showed conditions at the plants were "awful, just awful" last summer but are now improving.

Among the more serious failures:

— A backup system for pumping water to cool one of the Savannah River nuclear reactors may have been unusable for the past five years because of missing wiring. Engineers discovered the wiring was missing last December.

— Significant uranium releases at the Hanford weapons plant in Washington State were not reported for several months. The reason: the releases occurred after the Energy Department standard for radiation protection was inadvertently cancelled in January 1989, but before it was reinstated in July 1989.

Ariane 4 sabotaged magazine

PARIS, May 4, (Kuna): Three of the failures of the European launch Ariane 4 over the last ten years, which that of Ariane 4 last February 23, were due to sabotage, claim today the weekly magazine "L'Espresso".

The official investigation committee said last month that the cause behind the explosion of Ariane 4, which was carrying two Japanese satellites, seconds after take off, was due to the presence of a piece of cloth in the pipe to the water cooling circuit of one of the four Viking V engines.

Talking about that last failure, it weekly writes: "The identity of it person who has placed that piece of cloth has yet to be known" and this "several persons are currently under surveillance in the two plants where the water cooling circuit was assembled."

It noted that the upper part came from the Aerospace plant at Le Mans, south of Paris, and the lower part from the Societe Europeenne de Propulsion (SEP) plant at Vernon, west of Paris.

As for the second failure of Ariane on May 23, 1980, "L'Espresso" indicated that a "secret defence report" by a senior official of the Defence Ministry in charge of security, Jean Gruau, in 1982, said that it was a sabotage.

"A small capsule of explosives of about 2.4 grammes is believed to have been placed in the combustor chamber" and the "insertion of the capsule is assumed to be an amateur act by one of the employees of SEP," it quoted the report.

Art thefts kept secret

PARIS, May 4, (AP): Three-quarters of the art thefts from French museums last year were kept secret, a weekly newspaper reported yesterday.

Last year, 34 important art works were stolen and only eight were reported in the press, according to a story in La Canarde Enchaînée, known for its political satire and investigative reporting.

The article quoted an unidentified museum official as saying many thefts were not reported in order not to "give potential robbers the wrong ideas."

Olivier Chevrillon, director of the French national museums, said in a telephone interview that the article was "full of mistakes" and denied that robberies were kept secret.

The article blamed the thefts on a shortage of museum guards and inadequate electronic surveillance and alarm systems.

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CANADIAN IMMIGRATION

By John Garufi and Benito Rotella

May 5 Business Program

Highlights

The objective of the business immigration program is to promote, encourage and facilitate the immigration of experienced business people from abroad who will make a positive contribution to our country's economic development by applying their risk capital and know-how to Canadian business ventures which create jobs for Canadians.

Entrepreneur Category

This category, which is one of the components of the business program, is intended for business people whose background is the management of their successful enterprise. This category may include senior employees who have experience in managing or administering an enterprise and who can prove that they can successfully operate their own business in Canada.

Self-employed Category

This category, another of the components of the business program, is intended for individuals who, although they may not create or preserve jobs for Canadians, nevertheless make a positive contribution to the economic, cultural or artistic life of Canada. This category includes farmers, artists or owners of small enterprises who will create their own employment.

Candidate Selection

When selecting business immigrants, International Entrepreneurs I.E.C. Ltd. will evaluate a candidate's qualifications by taking into consideration the following:

Business Background

The applicant must submit documented evidence indicating sufficient experience in the management and/or administration of successful enterprises which will show that he can operate a business in Canada.

Financial Resources

When selecting its candidates, International Entrepreneurs I.E.C. Ltd. will assess a candidate's financial profile based on the candidate's requested province of destination. The following is a general basis of evaluation for 1990:

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China warns Muslims

BEIJING, May 4, (AP): Government officials have issued stern warnings to Muslim and Buddhist religious leaders in far Western China, where soldiers crushed a Muslim "holy war" for independence last month.

"Any religious activity that oversteps the constitution, laws, decrees and policies" will be punished, said Ba Dai, a top official in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. He was quoted in Saturday's Xinjiang daily, which arrived in Beijing on Wednesday. "Religion absolutely will not be allowed to meddle in marriage or in state administrative, judicial, education, cultural and health affairs," he told region's Buddhist leaders. "Revival of the oppressive, exploitative system of religious, feudal special privileges... will not be permitted."

Official reports have said Muslims in Akto county, south of the ancient Bazaar city of Kashgar, proclaimed a holy war last month to restore the eastern Turkistan republic set up by Uyghurs and Kazakhs in Western Xinjiang in 1944-49. Uyghurs and Kazakhs are Turkic peoples.

The rebels besieged a government compound April 5 and attacked police and civil authorities, the official accounts say. Militia arrived the next day and captured or killed the ring-leaders. A total of 22 people were reported killed.

Since then, Xinjiang officials have disclaimed any plans to crack down on Muslims, maintaining that the rebels only used religion as a pretext for "counter-revolutionary activities" and did not represent the wishes of most Muslims.

Chinese Communist Party official Seyyidin Aziz, a leading member of the Uighur ethnic minority, is visiting Saudi Arabia to discuss financial help and other assistance for China's Muslim communities.

Mongolia President arrives in China

BEIJING, May 4, (Reuters): Mongolian President Punsalmaagyn Ochiibat, accused by opposition groups of turning his back on a national crisis, arrived in China today for the first top-level talks between the communist neighbours in 28 years.

The 47-year-old President, who is making his first foreign tour since taking office in March, was greeted by a 21-gun salute in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Before he left Ulan Bator to fly across the Gobi Desert, a coalition of opposition groups said he should delay his visit because of a national crisis.

"China's leaders object to our democratic reforms. Contradictions between the leaders could hurt the traditional friendship of the two peoples," said a joint statement by seven democratic opposition groups.

While Mongolia's democracy movement has won concession after concession from the authorities in Ulan Bator, China responded to demands for more freedom by sending the army into Beijing to crush mass demonstrations last June.

Partly inspired by the collapse of communism in eastern Europe, Mongolia's opposition sprang to life in December and won a pledge of

free parliamentary elections in late July after nearly 70 years of monolithic communist rule.

Recently the authorities have adopted a tougher-sounding line towards opposition demands.

Activists launched a protest hunger strike last Saturday and opposition sources in Ulan Bator said today that five were in hospital in the northern town of Moron.

Opposition sources and residents said 200 people were on sit-down strike in Moron's central square and 400 people in Ulan Bator's central square.

The opposition Mongolian Democratic Association (MDA) said there were rallies and sit-down protests in 14 of the 18 provinces in sympathy with the hunger strikes, who want an end to a law restricting demonstrations and a temporary parliament to replace the existing one before elections promised for July.

Since becoming the world's second communist state, Mongolia has been kept tightly within the Soviet orbit.

About 17 Mongolian pro-democracy activists were staging a hunger strike to press for faster reform and protest the detention of demonstrators last week, a source said.



Hong Kong riot policemen order Vietnamese boat people back into their homes in the Whitehead Detention Centre in Hong Kong while searches were being conducted for homemade weapons (Reuters wirephoto)

200 boat people held

HK police raid camp

HONG KONG, May 4, (AP): About 200 police officers wearing riot gear and backed by armoured vehicles fired tear-gas today to restore order at a detention centre for Vietnamese boat people.

About 200 Vietnamese considered by local authorities as troublemakers were taken from the huge Whitehead camp in suburban Hong Kong that houses more than 22,000 boat people, said police spokesman Ewan Kwong. They were transferred to other detention centres in this British colony for investigation by security officials.

Nine Vietnamese were arrested as police searched Whitehead dormitories for homemade weapons.

"The main purpose (is) to restore law and order in the camp and boost morale," Kwong said.

The operation came at the end of a week of escape attempts and violent confrontations with police inside Whitehead, where tensions have been running high.

Monster

The top United Nations refugee relief official in Hong Kong said yesterday that Whitehead had become a "monster" of which no one seemed in complete control. He cited overcrowding and the loss of hope among many Vietnamese of being resettled overseas as factors for the unrest.

The police entered the camp early today to join about 300 other security officers in a search for homemade weapons.

Several hundred Vietnamese put up barricades of iron rods and bedding to prevent the officers from entering. Police fired more than 100 canisters of tear-gas after some of the boat people attempted to attack with homemade weapons, Kwong said.

Two police were injured before order was restored an hour later. The search continued through the day, Kwong said.

Early yesterday, police fired tear-gas at Whitehead to stop an escape attempt by about 50 Vietnamese. On Sunday, about 100 boat people cut through fences and escaped from the camp.

"I've never seen so many police in my life," one witness said. "They're tearing the huts apart."

Screaming

"The police and the CSD (Correctional Services Department) are working in parallel," a witness said. "The police are arresting those who offer violent resistance or are armed, while CSD has taken about 40 others out of the camp."

A Reuters photographer at the scene said Vietnamese in three sections of the camp were still resisting the police eight hours after the search started.

"They are throwing stones, screaming and yelling and keeping the police from searching their huts," he said, adding that they tore down home-made US flags strung up by the Vietnamese.

Police at Whitehead said they had

found about 100 makeshift spears and knives and what appeared to be a partly assembled gun. Inmates fashion weapons from steel window and bed frames.

Rising tension at Whitehead, where inmates live in cramped prison-like conditions, has led to increasing violence and break-outs.

The colony's secretary for security Alistair Asprey said authorities planned to transfer a few hundred gang leaders and troublemakers from Whitehead to a special high security camp at Chi Ma Wan on Lantau island by June.

On Wednesday Asprey said the government would consider using some of the estimated 9,000-strong British garrison to help guard the camps but only as a last resort.

Yesterday's incident started when a Correctional Services Department unit squad, brought in to strengthen security, spotted about 20 Vietnamese who had used bolt-cutters to sever the inner perimeter fence.

They retreated when challenged but reappeared with another 30 boat people, armed with makeshift spears and knives.

A CSD spokesman said the Vietnamese started throwing stones and attempted to cut the outer wire. Guards fired tear-gas and the situation was brought under control shortly before dawn.

Appalling

"They were armed with makeshift weapons, such as sharpened window bars," said assistant CSC Raymond Lal.

"It's an appalling phrase, but there's only one way to describe it—compassion fatigue. Major resettlement countries like the United States, France, Britain, Australia and Canada have had enough," said a senior diplomat with long experience of the issue.

"The only way to open these people now is to go back. Meanwhile the Southeast Asian countries are caught in the middle," he added.

Thousands of Vietnamese are still streaming out of the country—Indonesia has taken 5,000 since January, just over 1,400 have arrived in Hong Kong and 3,900 have reached Thailand.

Hong Kong now has 54,000 in camps and detention centres, Thailand more than 15,000, the Philippines 26,000 and Malaysia, which has 20,000 Vietnamese, is now reported to be pushing boats away.

Robert Van Leeuwen, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees chief in Hong Kong, said although arrivals in the colony were down 66 per cent over the same period last year, the overall arrival rate for the region was only 15 per cent lower.

International efforts to reach a solution over the years have achieved mixed results. The 1979 Geneva conference adopted the first asylum policy which initially worked well, with Southeast Asian countries giving asylum to arrivals on the basis of resettlement pledges from the West.



Bubble fun

A boy and a girl try to catch bubbles on a Tokyo pedestrian crossing on Thursday in the middle of the Golden Week holidays. In the centre of the city, main streets are kept completely free of cars on Sundays and holidays. (Reuters wirephoto)

ANNOUNCEMENT

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No evidence of killings, say diplomats

Laos denies protesters' massacre

BANGKOK, May 4, (AP): Laos has denied reports that its soldiers massacred pro-democracy demonstrators and that the soldiers killed people in clashes with anti-government guerrillas.

In a report yesterday, Radio Vientiane said the news agency Agence France Presse on April 27 quoted Thai military sources as saying Lao troops had killed 40 protesters in northern Laos in March.

The radio said the following day Radin

Australia, also quoting Thai military sources, said 42 people were killed in clashes between Lao government forces and guerrillas.

"We... have never heard nor seen these incidents anywhere in Laos," said a text of the report seen today in Bangkok.

Bangkok newspapers on April 27 quoted Thailand army spokesman Lt. Gen Naruedol Dejpradiyuth as saying that Laos government troops had killed 35 pro-democracy

demonstrators in March.

It was not possible at the time to obtain independent confirmation of Naruedol's report.

"Such ill-intentioned rumours must have been premeditatedly fabricated by bad elements in Thailand," Radio Vientiane said.

The same "bad elements" had consistently supported anti-government guerrilla groups, it added.

PRIZES OF MITSUBISHI CAR SUPER PRIZE DRAW ON 21ST APRIL, 1990

COUPON NO.	PRIZES	COUPON NO.	PRIZES
3369	1	3242	14
3253	2	3172	15
3142	3	3235	16
3517	4	3119	17
3074	5	3192	18
3264	6	3594	19
3417	7	3728	20
3935	8	3478	21
3411	9	3365	22
3358	10	3613	23
3763	11	3545	24
3399	12	3769	25
3154	13	3551	26

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World News Roundup



Alleged criminal

FOUR decades after fleeing to Argentina, alleged Nazi war criminal Joseph Schwammberger returned to Germany on Thursday to face charges in connection with the deaths of thousands of Jews.

Schwammberger, a former Nazi SS lieutenant, was flown from Argentina to Frankfurt, where he arrived Thursday afternoon.

The feeble-looking Schwammberger was supported by a security man in civilian clothes as he walked down the steps of the plane that brought him to West Germany.

Schwammberger, 78, wearing a tan sweater and checkered shirt, was hunched over and appeared to stumble slightly on the last step before reaching the tarmac. He was led away to a waiting police van and taken to Stuttgart in a military West German plane.

He was escorted toward news media by a German soldier. Schwammberger had been arrested in Argentina in 1973, when he was believed to be a member of the SS.



Coopers
A group of Indian protesters denounced the actions of the New York police on Thursday, demanding the removal of a statue of a Native American from a park in Manhattan. The protesters, who were led by a man named Mohawk, said the statue was a symbol of the oppression of Native Americans. They demanded that the statue be removed and replaced with one that represents the Native American community.

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America

Train derailed: A passenger train en route from Chicago to Indianapolis derailed, injuring as many as 30 people, authorities said.

The accident occurred shortly before 9 pm Wednesday (10:00 GMT Thursday) on the eastern edge of Crawfordsville, about 60 miles (95 km) northeast of Indianapolis, state police said.

From 27 to 30 people were being rushed to Culver Union Hospital in Crawfordsville, said hospital spokesman David Calcedo. He said seven of the injured had already arrived at the hospital and were treated for minor injuries such as bumps and bruises. (AP)

Sex-based church: A couple cannot claim their sex-based church of the Most High Goddess is a religion protected by constitutional freedoms and thus immune from attempts to enforce vice laws, a federal judge ruled.

Wilbur Tracy, 51, and his wife, Mary Ellen, 47, argued that the church, which promises salvation through sex in exchange for monetary sacrifices, should be protected by the US constitution.

The couple testified the church was based on an ancient Egyptian religion in which intercourse with Mrs. Tracy, alias priestess Sabrina Aset, cleansed the soul as a purification rite.

Proof came in the form of cash or other "tokens of sacrifice," Mrs. Tracy testified Wednesday. (AP)

Creeping lava: Creeping Lava from the Kilauea volcano on Friday was closing in on the favorite gathering place of the recently abandoned beach town.

Lava advanced Thursday night to within 75 yards (metres) of the Kalapana store and driveway and within 175 yards (metres) of the historic Star of the Sea Church, which was being moved to safer ground.

The community was sealed off Thursday by civil defence officials as the lava flow headed directly for the centre of town.

"It is a community coming to death," the church's sister Mary Helen said. "The immediate loss is a loss of community. Something we've loved all through the years is going." (AP)

More Hubble trouble: The Hubble space telescope's critical guidance system was tested for the first time Thursday and engineers unexpectedly discovered signs the \$1.5 billion observatory was slowly wobbling back and forth.

Engineers at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt and the Marshall Space Flight Centre in Huntsville, Alabama, began 18 hours of tests on the 12-tonne telescope's precision pointing system, built to keep the giant instrument firmly locked onto guide stars during astronomical observations.

But ground controllers were surprised to receive data showing the massive observatory was slowly bobbing back and forth about one 60th of a degree every minute, far more than allowable. (UPI)

Super collider: The House of Representatives approved a bill authorising up to \$7.5 billion for construction of the superconducting super collider, one of the most ambitious scientific projects ever undertaken.

The House voted 309-109 Wednesday to authorise the money for the gigantic particle accelerator that scientists hope will unlock the secrets of the smallest building blocks of the universe. (UPI)

'Skinhead' parade: The city of Baltimore has reversed itself and will allow a parade by a white supremacist "skinhead" group rather than face a threatened court challenge.

Deputy city solicitor Anthony Harman said the city reluctantly approved the permit Monday, despite objections from community leaders, after concluding that it would lose to court if the racist group sued on the grounds that its right to free speech was being denied.

The group, known as Bash, or Baltimore Area Skinheads, said it wants to protest the arrival of Soviet Jews in the United States and would march within a month. (AP)

'Skinheads' sentenced: Five white supremacists "Skinheads" accused of plotting to gas a synagogue were sentenced Wednesday to prison terms ranging from four to nine years for conspiring to violate the civil rights of minorities.

An all-white jury convicted the skinheads March 1 of racially motivated hate crimes against Jews, blacks and Hispanics in Dallas.

The convictions were the first under a new federal crackdown on hate groups.

Dele lawyers charged their clients were tried for their beliefs and the men merely were exercising their right to free speech. (AP)

'Cold War' savings: Sponsors of a nationwide "town meeting" radio broadcast have urged that savings from the end of the Cold War be used to restore American roads, bridges, schools and other deteriorating infrastructure rather than merely helping to reduce the federal deficit.

Concrete planning for conversion from a military-driven to a civilian economy will be needed to restore the United States as a first-class industrial country, they said. (AP)

May 4 remembered: One of America's grimmest milestones — when the Kent State were sealed into memory with the killing of four students in an anti-Vietnam war protest — will be commemorated on Friday with a simple monument and a simple phrase.

Shortly after noon on May 4, 1970 a 13-second burst of National Guard rifle fire on an Ohio college campus killed four students and wounded nine others.

A student protest against the killing in Southeast Asia had become a killing in America. (Reuters)

Europe

Successor to Concorde: Plans for a possible successor to supersonic Concorde are to be unveiled next week by British Aerospace, it was reported here Friday.

But details are being kept secret until the announcement next Friday.

A spokesman for the company which almost a quarter of a century ago developed the first supersonic commercial aircraft with the French firm, Aerospatiale, said the announcement represented "a significant step forward."

But press reports in London said that the plan will give the go-ahead for a possible supersonic successor to Concorde, capable of flying nearly 300 passengers from London to Sydney in under four hours.

Swede wins damages: A Swede who won an appeal of his conviction for the 1986

World's biggest \$25m sought for pearl

LOS ANGELES, May 4, (AP) — The owners of the biggest pearl in the world — a 14-pound (6.3-kilogramme) jewel the size and shape of a human brain — hope to sell it for \$25 million.

Various known as the Pearl of Allah and the Pearl of Lao-Tzu, the natural pearl went on display yesterday and later will be shown to prospective buyers.

The Guinness Book of Records says it is the largest of its kind in the world. Part owner Peter Hoffman, a jewellery dealer, said he had been told the pearl was worth from \$25 million to \$50 million.

The pearl's stock is boosted by the romantic legend that says it grew 2,500 years ago, when Chinese philosopher-spiritualist Lao-Tzu had a small amulet placed in a clam.

People who gaze upon the stone are said to see the image of Buddha, Confucius and Lao-Tzu, the Filipino tribal chief who once owned it declared it a gift from God. A diver is said to have drowned prying it from a clam.

Jewellery dealer Peter Hoffman said he and co-owner Victor Barbish might sell the pearl to a museum if they can assure it will be properly insured, safeguarded and displayed.

"I think it's that kind of an item that can do nothing but good if it was on public display," Hoffman said.

murder of Prime Minister Olof Palme was awarded \$49,000 on Wednesday as damages for the 10 months he spent in jail.

Christer Pettersson, who was acquitted on appeal last year, had sought 2 million Swedish kronor, the equivalent of \$325,000.

But attorney general Hans Stark, in setting the award of 300,000 kronor, or \$49,000, said he was influenced by Pettersson's long criminal record and admission that he was an alcoholic and petty thief. The TT news agency reported. (AP)

Would-be assassin tried to copy: A mentally disturbed man arrested for allegedly plotting to kill Vienna Mayor Helmut Zilk apparently intended to imitate last week's attack on West German opposition leader Oskar Lafontaine, police said.

The suspect, unemployed Vienna resident Anton Zwintz, was armed with a 12-inch (30 cm) bread knife when he was arrested during May Day festivities on Tuesday morning in a square outside city hall. Zilk was scheduled to visit the square later in the morning.

Police were alerted to the alleged plot by a taxi driver, who said a man matching Zwintz's description had shown him a large knife and confided he planned to kill Zilk. (UPI)

Police seize 70 kg of heroin: Italian police said on Thursday they had seized heroin with a street value of \$32 million hidden in a long-distance truck from Turkey.

They arrested the Turkish driver of the truck, another Turk and an Italian bar owner after finding more than 70 kg (155 pounds) of the drug hidden in the truck's front cabin.

Police said they believed the drugs, seized on Monday, came from Turkey and were taken by truck through Greece to northern Italy. (Reuters)

Jet crashes in England: A US air force fighter jet crashed on Wednesday in a wheat field in eastern England, but the two crewmen ejected safely, the air force said.

Master Sgt Michael Devine said the F117F jet was on a routine attack training mission when it crashed near Bingham, 120 miles (200 kilometres) northeast of London.

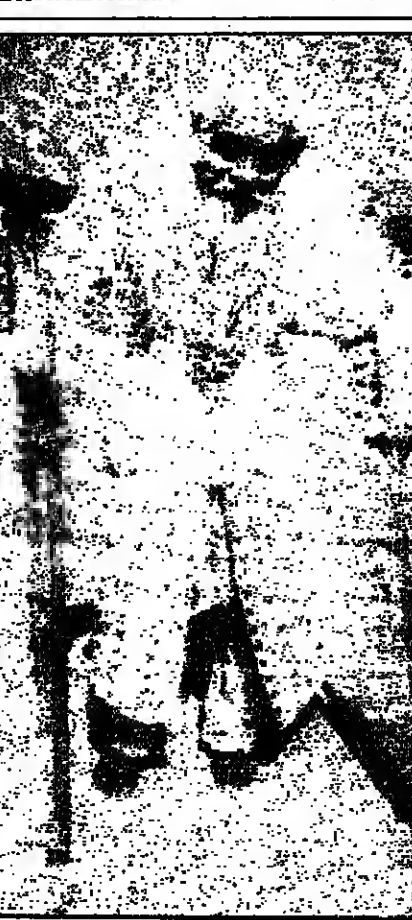
Norfolk police said two buildings in the area were slightly damaged by debris.

Capt. David F. Ratcliffe, the pilot, and weapons systems operator Lt Brian W. Kirkwood were taken to their base hospital at Lakenheath, a World War II Royal Air Force airfield 60 miles (96 kilometres) northeast of London, the air force said. (AP)

Anti-pollution measures: The European Economic Community's executive commission proposed on Wednesday to take steps to reduce pollution from diesel trucks.

Carlo Ripa di Meana, the EEC commissioner for the environment, recommended that EEC governments and the European Parliament require all trucks in the 12-nation trade bloc to cut their emissions of carbon dioxide by more than half, of hydrocarbons by half and of nitrogen oxides by slightly less than half.

It would make EEC diesel trucks as clean as those from Austria and Switzerland. (AP)



Search for food

A normally wheelchair-bound Baragwanath Hospital patient takes to crutches to find food on Wednesday, the second day of a pay strike by non-medical staff services at the biggest hospital in Alcala, serving about six million blacks near Johannesburg. (Reuters wirephoto)



Tiger and her cubs

A Bengal tiger erases her three cubs (left) on Thursday at the Clyde Beatty Cole Brothers Circus currently performing in Woodridge, Virginia, USA. The litter of three born on May 1



included one white tiger. Only about 40 white tigers exist in North America. At right, assistant animal trainer Kathleen Umstead holds a golden baby Bengal cub after its birth.



Down but not out

Matador Francisco Espina tries to orient himself as his first bull of the afternoon goes after him. Espina escaped serious injury on Wednesday as

the horns missed their mark. The bullfighter ended with a twisted foot and was not able to continue the fight. (Reuters wirephoto)

Africa

Swiss doctor killed: A Swiss doctor who worked in Mozambique for more than 25 years was killed when his car was ambushed Wednesday by anti-government rebels, the national news agency AIM reported.

René Gagnaux, 61, died when guerrillas of the Mozambique National Resistance fired on his car while he was travelling on a road about 75 kms (46 miles) north of the capital of Maputo, AIM said, citing sources in the Swiss Presbyterian Church in Mozambique.

The Swiss embassy in Maputo confirmed Gagnaux's death but did not provide details, the Portuguese news agency Lusa reported from Maputo. (AP)

500 troops killed: Ethiopian rebels said on Thursday they had killed more than 500 government troops and pushed back an army advance in the Mehra Bete district of Shoa province.

The clandestine radio of the Tigrya People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said rebel forces killed 507 soldiers and captured 426 in the battle last Sunday.

The TPLF and its allies in the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front counter-attacked when government forces started moving towards rebel positions in Mehra Bete, 130 km (80 miles) north-east of the capital Addis Ababa, it said. (Reuters)

Expulsion order lifted: President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire lifted an expulsion order against a journalist who reported the deaths of two protesters at an anti-government rally, the Agence France-Press news agency confirmed Thursday.

AFP journalists in the French capital confirmed a report from Kinshasa, Zaire, that their colleague, Jean-Claude Fiol, had received the presidential pardon.

Mobutu personally withdrew the order hours after it was issued Wednesday by Information Minister Ngongo Kamaunda, who had summoned both Fiol and the French ambassador to protest the report. AFP said. (AP)

Mistrustful call: Angola's Marxist government showed itself mistrustful Thursday of UNITA rebels' call for an urgent meeting between their leader Jonas Savimbi and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, and sharply criticised the insurgents for continuing attacks on civilians.

An editorial released in Lisbon by the Angolan state news agency Angop said UNITA's latest proposals "proves once again that the movement is totally against the government's desire for peace and national reconciliation."

Officials of UNITA, or the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, met with government representatives last week in Portugal for the first direct contacts since a truce

Mental illness

Arsonist killed in ferry disaster

OSLO, May 4, (AP) — Police are focusing their investigation into the cause of the Scandinavian Star ferry disaster on a convicted Danish arsonist who may have been one of the 158 victims of the inferno.

The man, who was not identified by name, was a 30-year-old Dane who had had previous convictions in connection with fires in buildings, the radio said.

A report on Swedish radio described him as a pyromaniac with a history of mental illness.

Norwegian radio quoted Oslo police chief Magnus Aukrust as confirming that police believe the Dane may have been on board, but other leads also were being investigated.

Aukrust was not immediately available, and other Norwegian officers said they had no authority to comment. A Danish police spokesman said he had no information to confirm the report.

The 10,500-ton ferry, carrying about 500 passengers and crewmen, went up in flames April 7 in the North Sea during an overnight voyage from Oslo, Norway to Frederikshavn, Denmark.

Inspectors concluded that at least three fires ignited independently on the 20-year-old ship. Passengers quickly extinguished one blaze in a pile of sheets and blankets in a corridor.

Two other fires began around the same time in stairways on either side of the ferry. Flames leapt past several decks and burst into the main restaurant area, according to testimony to a marine inquiry in Copenhagen, Denmark.

He did not elaborate.

Two sides agreed to set a secret calendar for further talks. (AP)

Land ownership laws: President Robert Mugabe vowed Wednesday to change land ownership laws which his government says have favoured white farmers.

The changes will be part of legal amendments replacing clauses in the just-expired 10 year independence constitution, he said.

Opening parliament in Harare, Mugabe said the changes will "enable government to distribute land more equitably and speedily than has been possible hitherto."

He did not elaborate.

Zimbabwe's British-brokered Lancaster House constitution prevented the government

from taking over private land except on a willing seller-willing buyer basis.

The Agriculture Ministry says some 4,000 mostly white commercial farmers still own more than one fourth of the total land while some eight million peasants occupy about one third, the rest being state property and wilderness preserves. (AP)

Panel set up: Nigeria's military government has set up a panel of security experts headed by a brigadier to investigate last month's abortive coup, state radio said on Thursday.

The panel will report to a tribunal which will try captured rebels, the radio said, quoting Colonel Anthony Ukpo, principal staff officer to President Ibrahim Babangida.

Ten officers were shot in 1986 for allegedly plotting to overthrow Babangida, who himself seized power in Africa's most populous nation in 1983.

Ukpo said 36 civilians were among several hundred people arrested since the April 22 rebellion was crushed.

Eleven wanted army officers and one civilian suspected of financing the rebellion were still at large. (Reuters)

Latin America

Endara dismisses coup talk: President Guillermo Endara returned from the United States on Thursday and said the mobilization of guards at the presidential palace that sparked coup rumours was a routine exercise.

Endara said he had a successful five-day trip to the United States, where he met with President Bush and international bankers.

He expressed grief at the death of his 75-year-old Jose Cubilla, who was shot accidentally in a common room Tuesday night when about 30 guards at the presidential palace surrounded the building and blocked nearby streets.

The incident sparked widespread rumours of an attempt to overthrow Endara's government. Vice-President Ricardo Arias Calderon denied the rumours in a radio broadcast on Wednesday. (UPI)

Aylwin intervenes to free journalist: A military prosecutor ordered the release of a journalist who was arrested interviewing a witness in the 1976 Washington assassination of a prominent chief of the Pinochet military government.

President Patricio Aylwin intervened in the incident, saying he could not understand why the military ordered the detention of Manuel Salazar, news editor of the pro-government daily newspaper La Epoca.

"The truth is I'm surprised... one cannot explain a decision of that kind. It appears to me to be an attitude that demands an explanation," Aylwin said. (UPI)

Torrijos remains stolen: The ashes of former Panamanian military ruler General Omar Torrijos have been stolen from the national sanctuary church in Panama city, Panamanian authorities said on Thursday.

They offered few details about the theft on Tuesday, but a guard at the church, Marino Rodriguez, told Reuters two men, one with a foreign accent, entered the crypt where the urn holding the ashes was located and then left. Shortly afterward a woman told church officials that the urn was missing.

The reason for the theft was not immediately known. (Reuters)

US deports suspect: A Mexican man wanted in connection with the murder of a journalist was arrested in the United States and turned over to Baja California state judicial authorities, Gov. Ernesto Ruffo Appel said.

Ruffo on Wednesday said at a news conference in Mexicali, the two men, one with a foreign accent, entered the crypt where the urn holding the ashes was located and then left. Shortly afterward a woman told church officials that the urn was missing.

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The reason for the theft was not immediately known. (Reuters)

Two Italians arrested: Two Italians have been arrested for transporting cocaine at Maqueta airport, and authorities said on Wednesday the drugs were being shipped to Italy for the World Cup soccer championship.

National Guard Gen. Ramon Guillen said airport security workers have been alerted that Venezuela is being used as a transshipment point for Colombian cocaine on its way to Italy, where the World Cup will be held in June.

The two Italians were arrested in separate incidents.

The national guard reported that Dario Fenoglio, 39, was arrested on Sunday as he was about to transfer to a Viasa flight from Santo Domingo to Rome after arriving at Maqueta from Bogota. Three kilograms (6.6 pounds) of cocaine were found under a false bottom of his suitcase, officials said. (AP)

Activist assassinated: Unidentified gunmen assassinated a Guatemalan human rights activist on his way to a May Day parade and suspected leftist rebel blew up two electric power pylons, a police spokesman said on Wednesday.

A group of unidentified men gunned down activist Jose Maria Ixcaya Piztan, 39, at dawn yesterday moments after he left his home in the village of La Fe, about 59 miles (95 km) northwest of the capital, police said.

Ixcaya, a leader of the indigenous human rights group Rujunel Unam ethnic communities council, had planned to travel to the capital to participate in a May Day demonstration.

The victim's cousin told a local newspaper that government troops killed Ixcaya, but a military spokesman denied the accusation. (UPI)

Airstrips blown up: Security forces blew up on Wednesday the first of more than 100 clandestine airstrips used by gold miners in the Amazon in an effort to protect the Yanomami Indians, the world's largest primitive tribe.

More than 250 army soldiers, air force officials and federal police led into a 600-yard (metre) runway in a tropical rain forest near the Venezuelan and Guynan borders, said federal police spokesman Jose Martins.

The other 109 clandestine airstrips will be destroyed before May 18 to prevent the 40,000 prospectors who were kicked out by President Fernando Collor de Mello from returning. Martins said in a telephone interview. (AP)

Handwritten signature or mark.

Freedom declared

Latvia's Parliament adopts independence measure

RIGA, USSR, May 4, (AP): Latvia's parliament today adopted a declaration of independence from the Soviet Union.

The Supreme Soviet voted 138-0, with one abstention, to pass the measure, which calls for independence after an undetermined transition period. Fifty-seven anti-independence deputies refused to vote in protest.

Results of the vote were announced over loudspeakers to a crowd of several hundred people outside parliament. They cheered loudly.

Those inside and outside the hall began singing "God Bless Latvia," the republic's national anthem.

The measure needed 132 votes in the 201-member Supreme Soviet legislature to pass. Four seats are in dispute, so only 197 members were expected to vote. There was no immediate explanation for why only 196 members were accounted for.

In passing the measure, Latvia became the last of the three Baltic republics to formally break with Moscow.

The deputies also voted to drop the words "Soviet socialist" from the republic's name, making it simply "the Republic of Latvia."

Two deputies walked out of the session during the vote, including Alfreds Rubiks, Latvia's Communist Party chief. He earlier had said there would be demonstrations and strikes by non-Latvians who oppose independence if the measure passed.

As the time for the vote approached, young girls in gold headbands and bright pink skirts sang Latvian folk songs outside the Supreme Soviet building. Demonstrators held red and white Latvian flags.

The bill, proposed by the Latvian People's Front that dominates the parliament, proclaims the beginning of an unspecified period of transition to full independence. In the interim, the draft provides for negotiations with Moscow.

The neighbouring Republic of Estonia has taken a similar step. The third Baltic Republic, Lithuania, declared full independence on March 11.

Shortages

In response, Moscow imposed a partial economic blockade that has caused shortages of key supplies, such as fuel and medical items.

Members of Latvia's opposition complained they were not given enough time to study the declaration. Others said Moscow would respond with heavy pressure to rescind the measure.

Rubiks said his constituents oppose the declaration.

"They will express themselves in mass demonstrations and political strikes in all the cities" if the measure passes, he said. They also would ask Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to impose presidential rule, he said.

Rubiks instead urged a popular referendum on secession.

Other speakers, however, said the declaration was the only way to avoid demographic disaster for Latvians, who are close to becoming a minority on their own territory.

After voting on the declaration, the parliament planned to vote on whether to send an announcement of their decision to Gorbachev and whether to appeal for support from the world, the police, the KGB secret police and the Soviet people.

Advised

Yesterday, Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis advised his neighbours to "be strong and have courage."

In Lithuania, 80 per cent of the people are ethnic Lithuanians. About 54 per cent of Latvia's population of 2.7 million people are Latvians. Most of the rest are ethnic Russians, many of whom oppose independence.

Latvia has copied Lithuania's moves. In December, it abolished the Communist Party's guaranteed monopoly on power, in February it condemned the 1940 act that formalised its annexation by the Soviet Union, and last month a large segment of its Communist Party broke from its Moscow-based parent.

President George Bush said yesterday he sometimes worries about a military takeover in the Soviet Union that would mean Gorbachev and reverse Eastern Europe's strides toward democracy.

He saluted Gorbachev as "the architect of perestroika" and extolled the Soviet president for exercising "great restraint" as Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia and other Warsaw Pact countries undertook deep reforms.

However, he said at a news conference, US foreign policy "is not based on just Mr. Gorbachev." Bush also denied that he has withheld support for Lithuanian independence because of a desire to see Gorbachev and his reforms succeed.

Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa, who won the Nobel peace prize in 1979 for her care of the derelict in India, said on Thursday she will open a permanent mission in Bucharest.

The 79-year-old missionary, who arrived on Monday from Roma accompanied by four other nuns, told reporters she came to Romania "to spread brotherly love." Pictures show Mother Teresa talking to Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman on her departure after a short meeting. (Reuters wirephoto).

No challenge to Gorbachev

Aide denies army move

MOSCOW, May 4, (Reuters): A top aide to President Mikhail Gorbachev denied today that the Soviet leader had faced a challenge from the military.

But the aide, Alexander Yakovlev, a prominent Kremlin liberal, condemned "ultra-rightists" he said were working to destroy reform.

Yakovlev also told a news conference Moscow would be ready for talks with rebel Lithuania if the Baltic republic's leaders froze their independence declaration.

"We have no facts to suggest the army is working in any way at all against perestroika or against the processes that are under way in our society," said Yakovlev, a member of the Communist Party politburo and Gorbachev's president council.

He said Western press reports in the past two days suggesting elements in the military put on a show of force in February to pressure Gorbachev into policy changes "have no basis."

"There were no army movements, and no demands made on Gorbachev or on the government," he said.

But he said an anti-Gorbachev outburst by some marchers during Red Square demonstrations on May Day was organised by ultra-conservative forces who wanted a return to "slave-like obedience and subjugation of the people."

In the first comment by a top Kremlin figure on the unprecedented incident, Yakovlev confirmed that Gorbachev and other leaders left the Red Square reviewing stand because of the behaviour of some marchers.

"Yes, the leadership left the tribune and left it for political reasons, being very strongly in disagreement with the ultra-right conservative positions being expressed by people who had come onto the square," Yakovlev said.

Patriarch Pimen is dead

MOSCOW, May 4, (AP): Elders have chosen the patriarch of the Ukraine to head the Russian orthodox church until a permanent replacement is named for the late Patriarch Pimen, the Tass news agency reported today.

Pimen, a monk who presided over the church during years of repression and a recent reawakening, died yesterday at the age of 79 after a long illness.

Pimen had served as patriarch of the church since 1971, leading tens of millions of believers under a government that has been officially atheist since the Bolshevik revolution of 1917.

Critics said Pimen was too much under control of the Kremlin, but his supporters said that he preserved the spiritual integrity of the church in hard times.

Caramanlis elected as Greek President

ist and former Speaker of Parliament, had failed to win the required 180 votes, or three-fifths majority, to win during the first round of voting on Monday.

Alexas won 125 votes on Friday while a communist candidate, Constantine Despotopoulos, won 21.

Caramanlis, 83, returns to the post which he established and held from 1980 to 1985. He was backed by the ruling conservative party's 150 deputies, a centre-right party's lone deputy, and two representatives of the Muslim minority in northern Greece.

Tass welcomes US move

Short-range arms to go

WASHINGTON, May 4, (Reuters): President George Bush said yesterday revolutionary change in the Soviet bloc has made a new Nato short-range nuclear missile obsolete and will require a summit of allied leaders this summer to consider the political role of the alliance.

Bush called a news conference to announce formally that the United States would not pursue plans for a new missile to replace the Lance and would not modernise an arsenal of nuclear artillery.

His proposal for a Nato summit was quickly agreed to by allied foreign ministers meeting in Brussels. It will be held in London, probably in late June or early July.

"I suggest that this summit should address, first, the future political mission of the alliance, reaffirming its crucial role in managing and stabilising the transformation of Europe," Bush said.

He also said the summit should agree on broad objectives for future negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union aimed at eliminating short-range nuclear arms in Europe. He said it should consider Europe's conventional forces requirements as well.

Bush said there was less need for short-range nuclear weapons because of the reduction in East-West tensions.

"In response to these new conditions, I've decided to terminate the follow-on to the Lance programme and cancel any further modernisation of US nuclear artillery shells deployed in Europe," he said. He was referring to a replacement programme for 88 Lance missile launchers. They date back to 1978 and will be obsolete in the mid-1990s.

Most of the Lance systems are based in West Germany and are only capable of hitting targets in East Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia — countries no longer part of

the Soviet empire. The decision amounted to recognition that it is politically impossible to deploy new ground-based nuclear weapons whose ranges of less than 300 miles (480 kms) would only allow them to hit the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe.

The Republican President's announcement won quick endorsement from two powerful Senate Democrats.

"These weapons are of such a short range that they would be used only against new democracies (in Eastern Europe). That is not politically acceptable," said Sam Nunn of Georgia, generally regarded as the Senate's top military expert and chairman of its Armed Services Committee.

Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island, chairman of the equally influential Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said: "With this decision, the President is accepting the new political reality in Europe and fiscal realities at home."

Bush said talks on short-range nuclear arms, which the United States had opposed, should begin shortly after a treaty reducing US and Soviet conventional forces has been signed.

The Kremlin welcomes the US decision not to modernise short-range nuclear missiles, but urges Washington not to proceed with other new weapons systems in Europe, a military commentator said.

"Let us hope that, accepting in principle the Soviet proposal for talks on tactical nuclear weapons and suspending modernisation of Lance missiles and nuclear artillery, Washington does not at the same time intend to give a go-ahead for the deployment of more dangerous air-based nuclear missiles in Europe," wrote Vladimir Bogachev, a military analyst for the official Tass news agency.

Nicu will go on trial for genocide

BUCHAREST, May 4, (Agencies): Nico Ceausescu, dissolute son of Romania's executed dictator, will go on trial for genocide on May 26 in the most eagerly awaited legal case since last December's revolution.

Court officials said yesterday that 37-year-old Nicu, whose sadistic whims came to symbolise the moral bankruptcy of Nicolae Ceausescu's regime, would be tried in Sibiu, the Transylvanian town where he was Communist Party secretary.

The genocide charge relates mainly to his ordering troops to open fire on peaceful demonstrators in Sibiu during the revolution in which 89 people were killed and 219 wounded. There is also a minor charge of failing to observe firearms laws.

Nicu's parents, Nicolae and Elena, were executed by firing squad on Christmas Day after a brief trial at the height of the revolution.

Since then, the Stalinist dictator's brother and namesake Nicolae Ceausescu has been on trial for multiple murder and at least five of his close relatives are in detention waiting for charges to be laid.

But it is Nicu's trial that the Romanian people, still enjoying their first taste of freedom after 25 years of Ceausescu's tyrannical regime, have really been waiting for.

His name was a byword for brutality well before the revolution and he is considered lucky to have escaped summary execution after being captured by revolutionaries last December 22.

Now that Romanians are free to discuss such matters in public, the revelations about his activities have become even more sensational.

A known womaniser and gambler said to have squandered a fortune in public funds at the gaming tables of Las Vegas and other casino towns, Nicu lived in extraordinary luxury in four Romanian homes dripping with gold, silver and precious work of art.

While Romanians suffered cold and hunger, Nicu had made to serve him caviar and champagne.

One of his alleged sexual victims was Nadia Comaneci, the Romanian gymnast who captivated the world by winning three gold medals at the 1976 Montreal Olympics.

Nadia's mother told Reuters in a recent interview that Nicu dominated her daughter "body and soul" and that during one visit to his home (Nadia had her fingerprints pulled out for evidence to comply with his sexual demands).

Senior judicial figures talk freely about the outcome of the trial as being a foregone conclusion. They say Nicu will be sentenced to life imprisonment and in Romania that means he will die in prison.

The death rattle of Elena Ceausescu and the slack jaw of her dictator husband, Nicolae, disprove charges that film of their Christmas Day execution was staged, a Romanian minister was quoted today as saying.

Deputy Prime Minister Gela Voicau, a member of the tribunal which tried the Ceausescus and ordered their execution on December 25, said the couple were killed by a three-man execution squad shooting bursts of automatic fire from the hip.



Ford with fiancée

US actor Glenn Ford, 74, and his fiancée Karen Johnson share a smile as they pose for photographers on Thursday. Ford said that he and Karen will wed very soon in Los Angeles. Ford is in Barcelona, Spain, to take part in a TV talk show. (Reuters wirephoto).

EEC suggests to extend aid

The European Economic Community's executive commission suggested Wednesday that an aid programme for Poland and Hungary be extended to five other East and Central European nations.

The commission, which is co-ordinating aid from the 12 EEC governments and a dozen other industrialised nations, said the programme should be extended to include Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Romania and Yugoslavia. (AP)

Poles celebrate National Day: Poland on Thursday resumed observance of a holiday marking the anniversary of Europe's first written constitution in 1791, which had been banned for 51 years under communist rule.

"I am very happy that this day has come back," said a smiling Danusz Chmielewski, joined by his wife Bogumila and their 8-year-old son on Warsaw's Victory Square.

The family watched an army band dressed in bright red, blue and white 17th century uniforms perform marching drills before about 2,000 people.

As the band broke into the patriotic hymn "Rota," a melody rarely played at official occasions in the past because of its religious overtones, Mrs Chmielewski added: "I am deeply moved." (AP)

Gummen try to blow up UK army barracks: Three gunmen believed to belong to the Irish Republican Army were surprised yesterday trying to blow up a British military barracks, officials said.

The men fired three shots at a civilian guard who came upon them at 2.10 am. (0010 GMT) outside a housing block for 70 soldiers at the British army's Loughmaben barracks in Fermanagh.

The guard was not hit. The gunmen fled, leaving behind three bags with a total of 99 pounds (45 kilos) of a highly explosive substance, police said.

The West Germany Federal Prosecutor's Office said it assumed the IRA, which is trying to drive the British out of Northern Ireland, was responsible. (UPI)

Havel proposed as presidential candidate: Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel has been proposed as presidential candidate in elections next month by the opposition Civic Forum, the state news agency CTK reported yesterday.

The proposal was announced by Civic Forum leader Jan Urban, who said his movement intends to support Havel, but it requires formal introduction in parliament.

Before he was elected president in December last year, Havel said he would accept the presidency only temporarily until a new president was chosen by a freely elected parliament.

However, sources close to Havel say he may want to continue as president even after the June elections but for no longer than two years.

Czechoslovak parliament on Wednesday approved a 24-month term for the president elected by the new parliament after the June elections to match the terms of office of parliament and the government. (AP)

UK, France pledge closer military ties

Link cut in N-arms to result of Vienna talks

WADDESDON, England, May 4, (AP): French President Francois Mitterrand and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, whose nations have independent nuclear forces, agreed today to co-operate more closely on military matters.

Mitterrand said co-operation involving nuclear forces was not ruled out.

Thatcher said US President George Bush's decision not to develop a replacement for short-range Lance missiles in Germany increased the importance of

modernising French and British nuclear forces.

Mitterrand said France wants to link further reductions in nuclear weapon in Europe to concrete results from the negotiations in Vienna, Austria, on reducing conventional, or non-nuclear, forces such as tanks and artillery.

"Both of us independent nuclear deterrent powers — the only two in Europe — we feel we should co-operate more closely on security and defence matters," Thatcher told a news con-

"We have asked our foreign and defence ministers to supervise a programme of enhanced co-operation on these issues with particular emphasis on future defence arrangements in Europe," she said.

Asked whether this would include co-operation on nuclear matters, Mitterrand said: "We have decided to co-ordinate our co-operation on all these matters related to security in Europe and our own security. Nothing is precluded from our conversations

Soviets 'no' to a Nato Germany

BONN, May 4, (AP): US Secretary of State James Baker tried today to persuade the Soviet Union that membership by a United Germany in the Nato alliance would not upset the delicate East-West balance of power in Europe.

But Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, while pleased by US plans to cancel new short-range nuclear missile deployments in West Germany, reiterated Moscow's opposition to such a move.

"We consider a unified Germany as an important factor of stability and peace in Europe," Shevardnadze said at the start of two days of talks on German unification. "For such a giant to belong to one bloc, one alliance... will not create conditions of stability."

Obstacles

Shevardnadze and Baker were in Bonn for talks tomorrow with the foreign ministers of both Germany, Britain and France to discuss one of the trickiest obstacles to creating a united Germany — figuring out how to keep it from disrupting European stability.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl held separate talks with Shevardnadze and Baker today.

"We hope we will be in a position to get some answers," Baker told reporters as he greeted Shevardnadze in the lobby of his hotel in Bonn.

Baker said he also planned to talk with Shevardnadze about the situation in the Soviet republic of Lithuania, which has declared independence from Moscow and is enduring a Kremlin economic blockade.

The US administration has withheld any direct pressure on Moscow in the Lithuanian dispute while urging the two sides to give ground in their positions in order to hold talks aimed at a peaceful settlement.

Encouraged

Shevardnadze said today he was encouraged by the latest US arms-control initiatives unveiled by Baker during the Nato meeting in Brussels. Baker yesterday announced that the United States will scrap development of more powerful Lance missiles and abandon plans to modernise its battlefield nuclear artillery in Europe.

He also offered to negotiate a reduction in the 88 Lance missile launchers that now target East Germany with 700 nuclear missiles and 900 conventional rockets if the Soviets dropped their objections to Nato membership for a united Germany.

The latest US proposals reflect the changing situation in Europe since the overthrow of hard-line communist governments in the East bloc last year.

Shevardnadze called the US arms-control announcement a "good decision," but also noted that the Soviets were the first to propose eliminating short-range nuclear weapons.

"We had proposed it a long time ago and offered it," he said. "We have already almost completely destroyed this class of rockets."

Western analysts have long speculated that ultimately the United States would shift from ground-based nuclear missiles to air-launched cruise missiles as the predominant American weapon in Europe.

Baker and Shevardnadze's talks today will be followed by a summit May 30 in Washington between US President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Bush is pushing for the completion of the conventional forces treaty by the end of the year. He also wants to speed up negotiations with the Soviet Union on reducing existing arsenals of short-range nuclear arms, Baker said yesterday.

Nato Secretary-General Manfred Woerner, a former West German defence minister yesterday tried to assuage Soviet concerns about allowing a united Germany to become part of the Western alliance.

"We have no intention of shifting the balance to the detriment of the Soviet Union," he said.

Until now, East Germany has served both as a loyal Soviet military ally and a buffer between the Soviet Union and US nuclear missiles and troops in West Germany.

Shevardnadze has called Germany a "testing ground" for new forms of East-West security co-operation after unification.

Asked today if he thought a united Germany should be a Nato member, Shevardnadze replied firmly, "no."

But when asked if he was ruling out any compromise, the foreign minister parried, "well, that's why we are having this meeting."

"Tomorrow will tell," the Soviet foreign minister said before getting into his limousine to head to talks with Baker.

When he arrived in Bonn earlier today, Shevardnadze indicated compromises in the Nato dispute could be discussed during Saturday's meeting.

nor our co-operation."

The Anglo-French summit came a day after Bush announced his decision on the Lance and called on the Western alliance to conduct a wholesale review of strategy to fit "the transformed Europe of the 1990s."

The meeting took place as the so-called two-plus-four talks got under way in Bonn, West Germany, between the two Germany and the four victorious allied powers of World War II — the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union.

Spring draft suspended

MOSCOW, May 4, (Reuters): The Parliament of Soviet Armenia voted on Thursday to follow the example of rebel Lithuania and suspended the spring draft of young people into the Soviet armed forces, the unofficial news agency Interfax said.

The move, which looked certain to anger the Kremlin, was made at a session of the Supreme Soviet which also demanded the guaranteeing of links between the republic and the disputed Azerbaijan region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Supreme Soviet of Armenia decided... to suspend the spring draft of young people in Armenia until the creation of necessary conditions for the carrying out of military service.

Dubai becomes Aladdin's cave of consumer goods

Buyers come from East Europe and Iran

DUBAI. (Reuters): More and more East Europeans, looking for the luxuries their own economies do not provide, are finding out what deprived Iranian consumers have known for a long time — Dubai is an Aladdin's cave of consumer goods.

Last month, traders in consumer electrical goods reported a short-term squeeze in supplying products, mainly due to an unexpected surge in demand from Eastern European buyers.

"It was unusual as far as Eastern Europe was concerned. We were not prepared but we are now expecting them to pick up more," said an export manager at Oman National Electronics.

The bazaar in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, a dynamic, mainly duty-free market-

place at a crossroads in world trade, prides itself on its range of goods from Asia and the West.

For many years now, the bazaar has been a mecca for Iranian consumers who flock over the Gulf from nearly Iran to load up with refrigerators, radios, televisions, and everything else that their own economy has failed to manufacture.

But recently, the behaviour of East European buyers in the maze of shops and warehouse along the busy creek that cuts through the centre of Dubai has become a kind of reflection in miniature of their national economic aspirations and fears.

Direct flights by East European airlines to Dubai, which is also an important international flight transit centre,

have encouraged the huying spree.

Polish shoppers have led the invasion, starting to come in force about a year ago with individuals arriving on Poland's Lot airline.

"A lot of people in Poland have hard currency and want some luxury goods. Poles led the shopping because they have been allowed for some time to have foreign currency accounts," said an official at the Polish Trade Centre in Dubai.

Bulgarians and Yugoslavs, many of them air crew huying for consumer consortiums, are also coming to the market for competitively priced, mainly electrical goods, a sales manager at Jacky's Electronics said.

East Germans, however, have

disappeared from the market recently, awaiting a West German decision on switching their virtually valueless savings into hard West German marks as part of the German unification process.

"They are keeping their money just now until they know whether it will be one mark, or two marks for each East German mark," said an official at East German airline Interflug.

When they get the hard currency marks, Dubai traders expect them to return.

"We can get the good products and prices from West Germany because we are so close, but no doubt if they can get to Dubai they can get them cheaper," the Interflug man said.

Hungary, so far East Europe's

most liberalised economy, keeps its consumers out of the market with high duties.

"In the past there were a lot of private imports, but now our own industries provide the goods, or we import direct from Asia," said a manager at Hungary's Trade Centre in Dubai.

And then there are the shoppers from the Soviet Union, not so many yet, but Russian is definitely heard in Dubai's bazaar.

It is almost impossible to calculate volumes and values of goods disappearing into Eastern Europe from Dubai because many of the buyers are individuals, and the retailers and wholesalers have not kept the relevant statistics.

However, one unidentified huyers alone was sending up to

100,000 dollars worth of goods to Poland per month, said a Dubai cargo company manager.

The recent tightness in the market is largely because the East Europeans are looking for specific goods with prices that fit their pockets, and plugs that fit their sockets.

Naturally, they would like the upmarket Japanese names but it's a price-conscious market," said the Oman National Electronics manager. Cheaper South Korean electricals like Goldstar are therefore in big demand.

Television and video recorders must also work on Eastern Europe's unusual Secam/DK system, which is a development of France's Secam network but which cannot work on Secam-designed products.

Private water wells Oman cracks down on illegal drilling

MUSCAT, Oman, May 4. (AP): A quarter of a million Omani villagers began registering their private wells Thursday as part of the state crackdown on illegal water drilling in this desert sultanate.

Around 25 per cent of the one million population have their own wells, resulting in rapidly falling water levels across the country, a water resources ministry spokesman said.

"The aim is to preserve Oman's dwindling groundwater resources. From now on, a state permit will be required to own a well," said the spokesman who is not named in line with government regulations. "Our intention is not to close up everyone's wells but to control haphazard drilling to prevent further over-extraction and saline intrusion."

The spokesman said that the sultanate at present has no reliable data on the number and type of wells in the country but estimates at least 250,000 are in use.

"We are unable therefore to estimate current extraction levels," he said. "We cannot control the situation unless we know what wells are being used where and we are therefore requiring each owner to register with their local state governor's office."

Oman, the second largest country on the Arabian Peninsula, covers 300,000 square kilometres (120,000 square miles) of arid and rugged terrain. Rainfall averages less than four inches (10 cms) a year.

Villagers have traditionally relied on wells and the 'falaj' system for drinking water and supplies for their livestock and crops.

They are known to drill for water for depths of up to 700 metres (yards) to locate deep aquifers.

The falaj, which is believed to have originated in Persia, consists of underground supplies of water tapped and channelled in a network of tunnels and culverts to bring water to villages many miles away.

Each village has its own falaj which flows first through the community mosque for Muslim ritual cleansing and is then used for drinking and washing before being channelled to irrigate the country's staple date, palm and citrus crops.

The construction of new wells and modification of existing ones has to be controlled to avoid excessive exploitation of water resources which has resulted in seawater seepage.



Dr Rasha at a press briefing.

Kuwait hosts anti-illiteracy meet

KUWAIT UNIVERSITY Assistant Rector for Social Service and Information Dr Rasha Al Sabah said here Wednesday that a conference on combating illiteracy in Gulf Co-operation Council countries will be held in Kuwait from May 5-8.

The conference, she told reporters, coincides with the International Year for Fighting Illiteracy sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

Because of the importance of the issue, Dr Rasha said, the Kuwaiti government has formed a national committee for combating illiteracy. It consists of representatives from various governmental and non-governmental institutions.

The KU official said the conference will deal with 21 researches on various aspects of illiteracy. It will be inaugurated by the Crown Prince's wife Sheikhha Latifa Al Fadh.

Moroccan Prince visits Kuwait

KUWAIT, May 4. (Kuna): Moroccan Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Al Hassan arrives here Saturday at the invitation of His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, according to an official statement.

The Moroccan guest will be accompanied by an official delegation including Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Dr. Abdellatif Filali as well as a number of senior Moroccan officials and a media team.

Prince Mohammed arrives here from Abu Dhabi, he is presently on a Gulf tour.

The statement said that the Moroccan Prince will be greeted at the airport by Sheikh Saad who will accompany the Moroccan guest to his residence at Al-Salam Palace.

After his arrival Prince Mohammed will have an audience with His Highness the Amir at Bayan Palace, the statement said. Heads of the accredited diplomatic missions here will be also received by Prince Mohammed later in the day at Al-Salam palace.

Sheikh Saad will host a banquet in honour of his guest, on Saturday evening, the statement said.

On Sunday, Sheikh Saad will receive Prince Mohammed at the Diwan of the Crown Prince and Prime Minister in Bayan Palace.

The Moroccan community here will also meet with Prince Mohammed on Sunday afternoon, the statement said, noting the audience will be held at Al-Salam Palace.

Iraqi army deserters respond to amnesty

KUWAIT, May 4. (Kuna): Thousands of Iraqi army deserters arrived in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities in response to a general amnesty issued by President Saddam Hussein last Thursday on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr.

Kuwaiti daily "Al-Watan", published here today, quoted Iraqi official sources as saying that the deserters who arrived at army police centres would soon join their specialised army units after completing necessary procedures.

They elaborated that the centres will remain open as long as the duration of the amnesty announcement is valid, which is one month for the deserters inside Iraq and two months for deserters outside the country.



Exhibition

Education Minister Anwar Al Nouri on Thursday opened an exhibition to display the handicrafts made by students. The exhibition is housed at the premises of the capital educational area authority in Murgab.

Handicrafts and workshop products are offered at nominal prices. Students from five educational areas are displaying their work. Over 1,700 products are on display. The exhibition continues until May 10.

Pictures show Al Nouri touring the exhibition.

Iranian envoy holds Gulf talks in Bahrain

BAHRAIN, May 4. (Reuters): Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammed Besharati visited Bahrain for the second time in five days for talks with the Amir on the situation in the Gulf, the Gulf News Agency reported on yesterday.

It gave no details of the meet-

Aviation agreement

DOHA, May 4. (Kuna): Turkey and Qatar signed here on Thursday an aviation agreement to operate three weekly flights between the two countries.

According to the agreement, Gulf Air, which is owned by Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) would schedule two flights weekly to Turkey and Turkish Airlines would operate one flight to Doha.

The agreement was signed by Turkish Minister of Industry and Commerce Sukru Yurur who left here earlier today and Qatar's Minister of Transportation and Communication Abdullah Saleh Al Manaa.

ing between Besharati, who arrived on Wednesday, and Sheikh Isa Bin Sulman Al Khalifa. Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa also took part in the talks.

Besharati visited Bahrain on April 28 as part of a tour in Gulf Arab states and delivered a message to the Amir from Iranian President Ali Akhbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Besharati, who had already visited Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman, said in Abu Dhabi last Monday that chances of a resumption in fighting between Iran and Iraq were near zero.

"The two sides have embarked on rebuilding war-damaged facilities and this shows their keenness on peace. I believe the prospects for a new war at this moment are near zero."

Iraq and Iran fought for eight years before a UN sponsored ceasefire halted the fighting in August 1988.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is scheduled to meet Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in a European city this month to try to arrange for the resumption of peace talks.

Action Line

RECENTLY, I received an istimara from the Traffic Department and was given a date for the driving test next month. Now I have changed my profession in my visa to take up another job. I am afraid this might affect the istimara which I received. Please clarify.

A.P. Abraham
AT the time you got the istimara, you had given the true information, relevant at that time and according to the documents you possessed; if you have now changed the profession, we don't think it would matter; you can appear for the driving test.

I HAVE been working in a reputed establishment since January 1990. I have completed 10 years. As I am not satisfied with the present salary, I am thinking of finding another job. I have been offered a placement with a good company. My present company is ready to transfer my residence. I want to take a release from my old sponsor and take my service benefits. Please advise.

G.S.S.
I SUGGEST you resign; if the old sponsor refuses to give a release paper, you can file a case against the company asking for a release, through Social Affairs Ministry. If you go to the ministry, you have to present documents showing the new company's willingness to sponsor you. As you will be resigning, you are entitled to receive seven-and-a-half days' salary per month for the first five years and half month's for following years.

I WAS working under a special contract in a ministry. I was allowed to bring my wife to Kuwait as this was included in my contract. Two months ago, I sent her back after cancelling her residence because I was planning to leave Kuwait for a long-term course abroad. Now, the study programme has been postponed, and I will be here until next year. I want to bring my wife and daughter, born in Kuwait. In view of the fact that my salary is below the required level, can you suggest how I could call my wife?

YOU mentioned that your contract included a visa for your family. If this is the case, then you can approach the Immigration Department with a letter from your ministry asking them to issue a visa and explaining your case. The authorities would inform you whether you have a right to get a visa or not.

A NEWS item appeared on 5/4/90 about transferring work permits into dependant's visas. I would like to know what papers are required from the sponsor; what is the salary limit for a husband to sponsor his wife and when the new rule would be put into effect.

D.M.R.
IF you earn a salary of KD650 in the private sector, you are eligible to transfer the residence and obtain a dependent visa for your wife; a marriage contract, salary certificate, valid passport with a valid visa are required.

PLEASE clarify the following for a person holding visa No. 18:
1) How many days notice should be given to apply for leave?
2) Can an employee resign while on leave? Is he required to give working days notice?
3) If an employee oversteps his leave by more than one week and the company terminates his services, is he entitled to full benefits?
4) Is the three-year period calculated from the date of entry or from the date the residence is stamped on the passport?

P.C. George
1. You must give sufficient notice to apply for leave; an employer reserves the right to approve leave after studying the situation at your place of work.
2. Yes, you can resign, giving a notice before the end of the holiday, mentioning in your letter that you are on holiday and giving a notice before the end of the leave.
3. The company has the right to terminate the services of employees who absent themselves for seven days from work without any valid reason; such a termination is done according to the private sector labour laws. If an employee has been fired due to this reason, he is not entitled to end of service benefits.
4. The date the visa is issued.

Uprising

Zayed supports summit

ABUDHABI, May 4. (Kuna): United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan conferred here Wednesday with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on latest Arab and international developments.

The meeting between Arafat and Sheikh Zayed focused on threats and dangers to the Arab nation, especially the Soviet Jews emigration and Israeli and Western threats against Iraq.

The two leaders also discussed the Palestinian initiative on holding an extraordinary Arab summit to confront those threats and dangers. They also discussed peace efforts to solve the Palestinian question.

Sheikh Zayed affirmed the need for holding the summit and reiterated his country's continuous support for the Palestinian uprising to confront Israel's oppressive policies.

Sheikh Zayed also received a message from the Chairman of Sudan's Salvation Revolution Command Council Gen. Omar Al Bashir.

The message dealt with bilateral relations and issues on mutual concern. The message was delivered last week by chairman of the Council of Trustees of Sudan-based Islamic Al Dawaa (call) Organisation Gen. Abdul Rahman Swar Al Dhaib during his meeting with the director of the Presidency Diwan Sheikh Sorour Bin Mohammad Al Nahayan. Talks during the meeting tackled Islamic issues and efforts being exerted by the Dawaa organisation to serve Muslims.

Suicide reported

An Indian national identified as A.Y. aged 19 reportedly committed suicide by hanging himself with a piece of cloth from the ceiling fan at his residence, the Interior Ministry's Public Relations Department said.

It said that the father of the deceased had reported the incident to the Jleeh Al Shuyookh Police Station.

The body has been sent for post-mortem and investigations are being conducted to determine the cause of death.

Bishara in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, May 4. (Kuna): Secretary-general of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Abdullah Bishara arrived here on Thursday on a four-day visit to Pakistan.

His programme of meetings with government leaders and senior officials of Pakistan was in the process of finalisation.

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Honoured

Kuwait's Deputy Army Chief of Staff Major-General Jaber Al Khaled Al Sabah (top) received at his office Wednesday the visiting delegation of the US National War College.

Later, the delegates met with Interior Ministry Undersecretary Major General Yousuf Bader Al Khorali.

US Ambassador to Kuwait W.N. Howell Jr hosted a reception in honour of the National War College delegation at his residence on Wednesday night. Picture (bottom) shows the ambassador with some of the delegates.



Lebanese praise Kuwaiti assistance

BEIRUT, May 4, (Kuna): The Lebanese, Al-Akhar magazine today praised Kuwait's political and economic assistance to help end the suffering caused by factional fighting.

The magazine, which was commenting on arrival of the fresh batch of Kuwaiti relief aid comprising 20 trucks loads of medicine, foodstuffs and dried milk, asserted that all Lebanese, of various factions, are equal brothers to the Amir, government and people of Kuwait.

A second Kuwaiti relief convoy of 40 trucks is expected here next week, to be followed by a

third some time later, the magazine indicated.

"Kuwait and its neighbour, Saudi Arabia, consider the predicament of the Lebanese people as Arab responsibility and consequently have spared no political, diplomatic or economic means to alleviate their suffering and to extinguish the flames of armed hostilities by offering more than one peace initiative, it pointed out.

Al-Akhar highlighted the immense exerted by Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabab Al

Ahmed while chairing the Arab League seven-man committee, assigned to find a peaceful settlement for the war in Lebanon which was later succeeded by the Arab Tripartite Committee that managed to approve the Taif Accord, signed by Lebanese factions.

It also recalled Kuwait's contribution by 20 percent of expenses for stationing of the Pan-Arab Deterrence Force in Lebanon since 1976 and efforts exerted by its envoy to Lebanon at the time, Ambassador Abdul Hamid Al-Bajjan to reach national concord.

Kuwait to set up military school

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Defence has formalised plans to establish a new military school for technical training which according to ministry officials will be the first of its kind in the Middle East.

Colonel Musaed A. Al Ossaime, who heads a committee supervising the project, told the ministry's monthly magazine "Humat Ul Watan" that the school is designed to train graduates from the intermediate schools in various technical and military specialties.

As a background, he said that the concept to establish a military technical school was designed to qualify and graduate military staff specializing in all technical and military fields according to the needs of the armed forces. The idea was originally initiated in 1976 and planning commenced in 1980. The school is envisaged to open by May or June next year.

The student, who would be granted a corporal rank after graduation, can choose one of six offered specialties and will graduate after a three-year course, Col Ossaime said.

He added that initially, the school can absorb about 450 students who would be first trained for three months in the Agrar Training School and then transferred to the new school to study their specialties for three years.

Outstanding students will be sent abroad for advanced training and specialisation, Col Ossaime concluded.

Uzbek official hails Soviet-Kuwaiti ties

KUWAIT, May 4, (Kuna): Deputy Premier for Cultural Affairs of the Uzbekistan Republic Omar Bek on Friday hailed Kuwaiti-Soviet relations. He also stressed the right of the Palestinian people to get back their usurped land and establish their own independent state.

Bek, currently here for an exhibition of a rare collection of Islamic art objects from the Soviet Hermitage Museum of Leningrad, said he discussed with Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah and the director of the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyah (Islamic Antiquities House) ways and means of boosting cultural relations in all fields.

He said President Gorbachev's restructuring policies or perestroika were facing serious difficulties taking into consideration economic and ethnic problems through which the Soviet Union is passing.

Bek said perestroika had given the peoples of the Soviet Republics the freedom to contact other people particularly in the Arab region. The Uzbek official was of the opinion that no Soviet republic was capable of independence before taking necessary steps to develop its economies, indicating that most of the Soviet republics were highly dependent on Moscow.

Condemning the immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Arab territories, Bek accused Western media of exploiting Soviet preoccupation with internal problems to facilitate Jews immigration with the aim of settling them in occupied Palestine.

He called on the Soviet Jews not to immigrate to occupied Palestine for humanitarian reasons. He did not elaborate.

Kuwait stamps shown in Paris

PARIS, May 4, (Kuna): Stamp collections of several historical periods from five Arab countries are on display in a gallery at the Arab World Institute. The exhibition opened Friday under patronage of French Communications Minister Paul Quilès.

The gallery, which displays stamps from Kuwait, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia and Syria, is being held on the occasion of the First Day Issue of a French stamp carrying a picture of the Arab World Institute Complex.

Kuwaiti stamps, provided by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Communications, include pre-independence and contemporary, but First Day issues date back only to three decades ago.

Among the Kuwaiti collection are stamps of the Anglo-Indian era, the British Protectorate era and modern stamps on the development of the country.

The gallery, called "A Letter From the Orient," provides a history of the postal system in the Arab world from the Mamluks to the Ottoman periods.

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Omani agreement up for renewal

US access to airfields

MANAMA, Bahrain, May 4, (AP): The US government is negotiating with Oman over the extension of a 10-year agreement allowing it to use airfield facilities in the strategic Strait of Hormuz region, Western diplomatic sources said Wednesday.

The agreement expires in June. The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the agreement's renewal was "largely a matter of protocol." Negotiations were continuing following the last round of bilateral talks held in the Omani capital, Muscat in March, they added.

"It is a fact that the US-Omani access agreement and an associated memorandum of understanding are being renewed.

It is an uncontroversial renewal with no intention on either side for changes," said an Omani-based Western diplomat.

The sources stressed the agreement provided only for US access to airfields, and could not be interpreted as an alliance. The sources said the renewal was welcomed by Britain. Oman's principal arms supplier and whose own security co-operation with the oil-rich, conservative sultanate is described as "deep and long-standing."

Oman is located on the southeastern corner of the Arabian peninsula, by the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow entrance to the Arabian Gulf. Oil-export terminals in the Gulf handle one sixth of the world's oil.

The original agreement, signed on June 4, 1980, granted US military forces access to the airfield on Masirah island off Oman's eastern coast, 650 kilometres (400 miles) from the strait. Monsoon winds make Masirah unreachable by ship four months a year.

The agreement also gave the United States access to mainland air bases at Thumrait in southern Oman and at Seeb, 45 kilometres (28 miles) west of the capital.

The accord, provides for US access "in circumstances where both countries would benefit," without differentiating between peace and wartime.

Under the terms of the agreement the

United States has carried out substantial military construction to upgrade Omani airfield facilities, which remain the property of the Omani government.

The agreement was first initiated when Washington was looking for Middle East facilities for its Rapid Deployment Force.

The RDF was subsequently converted into the Florida-based Central Command which controlled the US Navy warships rushed to the Gulf at the height of the 8-year Iran-Iraq war to protect international shipping.

Fighting in the war came to an end through the implementation of a UN-sponsored ceasefire in August 1988.

Jasser may run

(Continued from Page 1)

Thursday breaking a three-day lull in registration to that constituency.

A candidate refused to submit his papers yesterday morning because there were no reporters around. "I'll come tomorrow when reporters are here," he said.

Following are the names of the candidates who registered on the fourth and fifth days:

1st constituency — Sharq

Midhi Ahmed Al Midhi

3rd constituency — Qibla

Fahed Abdul Rahman Al Obaid

4th constituency — Da'ya

Jassem Mohamed Jom'a

5th constituency — Qadsia

Khalil Mahmoud Jawhar Hayat

6th constituency — Faiha

Mohamed Salem Al Huwaidi

Ahmed Fahed Al Jassar; Ali Abdullah Al Mutairi; Khalid Abdulla Al Misfir; Sulaiman Abdulla Al Mutawa; Ibrahim Abdulla Al Mutawa

8th constituency — Hawalli

Ali Subhail Al Zink; Abdul Mohsen Hussain Al Kouti; Jawad Ali Matrouk; Abdul Gani Abdulla Abdul Gaoi; Abdul Rahman Mohamed Al Kandari

9th constituency — Rowda

Youssef Khalil Al Khoudar

10th constituency — Adailiya

Mohamed Saeed Abdulla; Mohamed Jassem Al Khanfar

11th constituency — Khaldiya

Khalaf Sabih Al Tanem; Naser Jassem Al Awad

12th constituency — Salmiya

Thanyan Ali Al Outhaina

13th constituency — Rumaithiya

Kathem Abbas Shihab; Eid Abdulla Bin Eid

14th constituency — Abraq Khatitan

Ali Salem Al Mzyen

15th constituency — Farwaniya

Zaid Thiyab Al Mutairi; Eid Mohamed Al Rasheedi; Mraishid Abdulla Al Rasheedi; Fahad Ali Al Masih; Salem Turki Al Mjaveh

16th constituency — Omariya

Hadi Moutlak Al Rasheedi

17th constituency — Jleeb Al Shuyoukh

Mohamed Al Haimadi Al Odwani; Mohamed Dajfalah Shrar

18th constituency — Sulabikhat

Sayah Shayekh Bou Sheeba

19th constituency — New Jahra

Soud Amash Al Saedi; Mohamed Mishari Al Rafidi; Mijed Mohamed Al Mutairi; Barkhash Khaled Al Jinfawi; Fahed Faraj Al Inazi

20th constituency — Jahra

Nayef Mohamed Al Inez; Moutalq Mbarak Al Rowal

21st constituency — Ahmadi

Masoud Fahid Al Ajmi; Rashed Fahed Al Ajmi; Abdulla Saad Al Ajmi; Mahdi Hassan Al Ajmi; Fahed Mahdi Al Ajmi

22nd constituency — Riga

Jandal Mnaah Al Azemi; Mishal Abdulla Al Ajmi; Nabhar Baddah Al Mutairi; Ayed Matar Al Azemi; Mir-das Abdulla Al Ajmi

23rd constituency — Sabahiya

Jamran Moutlak Al Otaibi; Mohamed Moutlak Al Azemi

24th constituency — Fahabiel

Mbarak Obaid Al Dousari; Rashed Ragayan Al Shraibeh; Mohamed Fahed Al Dabous; Fahed Fahad Al Azemi

25th constituency — Umm Al Haiman

Awad Salem Al Azemi; Saad Haji Al Azemi; Moutalq Hussain Al Jouwaisiri

Yemens' unity speeded up

Date advanced to May 26

ADEN, South Yemen, May 4, (AP): The leaders of North and South Yemen have advanced the union of their two states by six months to May 26, scrapping interim steps, officials reported Wednesday.

The May 26 proclamation would move union up by six months.

The scrapped steps include the approval of a constitution and possible separate plebiscites, said the sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The speeding up is intended to frustrate growing opposition in both the impoverished Red Sea Arab states, said diplomatic sources.

Islamic fundamentalists in the still mainly tribal and conservative North fear the future likely influence of radicals in the South, the Arab world's only Marxist state, which they consider atheistic.

Objectors in the South are apprehensive about the likely imposition of Islamic law, including veils for women, in their secular society.

North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and South Yemeni strongman Ali Salam Al Beidh, the Secretary-General of the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party "are moving incredibly fast," said a Western diplomat in the northern capital, Sanaa.

"They have discussed almost every option," added the diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Under the speeded up unity plan the two parliaments of the two Yemens will meet on May 24 and 25 to approve the final version of the executive structure of the unified state, the sources said.

They added this will take the form of a 5-member "presidential council" to be headed by Saleh, and including two members each from the North and South.

Beidh is expected to be elected vice-president or deputy chairman of the council, while current South Yemen President Heider Al Attas will be asked to form a joint cabinet, the sources said.

The sources said it was not clear whether a plebiscite would be held after the May 26 proclamation.

They added parliamentary elections would not be held before the expiry of the current terms of the two

parliaments in two and a half years.

Under the original merger plan agreed by the two leaders last Nov 30 a draft constitution would have been presented for approval before the two parliaments within six months, and then by a plebiscite before Nov 30 this year, the original merger date.

The reports of a new schedule came a day after reported tribal clashes in North Yemen's eastern Sada Province, a fundamentalist stronghold along the border with Saudi Arabia.

The Sanaa government denied these reports claiming they were part of a propaganda campaign by opponents of the projected merger.

The advanced merger date and the postponement of parliamentary elections will prevent opposition from growing, according to diplomatic observers.

Meanwhile, Yemen Democratic Republic's minister of Foreign Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Dali arrived to Abu Dhabi yesterday from Aden on an official four-day visit to represent his country at the joint committee meeting.

Al Dali is carrying a message from the Head of People's Supreme Council Haider Al Attas to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayyan concerning bilateral relations.

UAE State Minister for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdullah Al Nu'aymi will represent his country at the joint meeting scheduled to be held Saturday.

Talks, during Al Dali's visit, will tackle ways of developing UAE-unified Yemen future bilateral co-operation.

Dali pointed out that the unification of two Yemens will be announced shortly.

He affirmed his country's support for the proposed emergency Arab Summit called for Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, and expressed hope over speeding up the holding of the summit as well as the attendance of all Arab countries to draw a plan for the Arab nation to confront all the challenges facing them.

Petrochemical complex costs KD 1.5 billion

THE cost of the petrochemical complex which was recently approved by the Kuwaiti Cabinet has been estimated at KD 1.5 billion. Its implementation will start during the next five-year plan, informed sources said.

The construction and supply costs may total about KD2 billion. The project will be built in the five-year plan 1994/1995-1999/2000, sources said.

The project is expected to yield profits of about 20 per cent of the total costs, he said. The petrochemical complex is the first of its kind in the Middle East.

New CSC contracts

Rules clarified

KUWAIT'S Civil Service Commission will hire teachers, doctors, engineers and experts on the basis of existing contracts, according to a CSC source. He clarified that the professionals mentioned above would be given the contracts I, II or III.

However, any government agency will reserve the right to implement the new lumpsum contract, with CSC approval, if the terms of the contract can be applied in the case of the proposed job, he explained.

He clarified that CSC will consider each case separately for lumpsum contract employees. CSC will also determine if the contract made with a non-Kuwaiti employee-designate falls within the categories to which the contract is applicable.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Public Institute for Social Security has suggested raising the retirement age for Kuwaiti employees from 50 years to 55 years. The recommendation is part of a study done on early retirement among Kuwaiti employees. It also recommended a suspension of gratuity payment to employees who do not abide by the retirement age rules.

Reckless driver nicked

THE CRIMINAL Court sentenced a man to three months in jail with hard labour, but gave him the option of a suspended sentence against a bail of KD 100 following the withdrawal of the suspect's driving licence for three months.

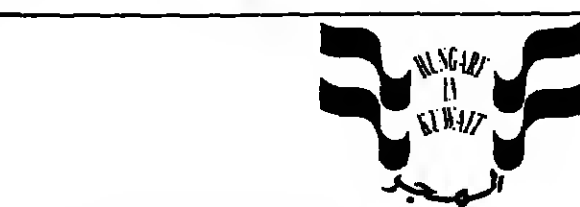
The court heard that the suspect was driving his six-wheeler recklessly when he approached an interchange. Instead of stopping to give right of way to the victim's minibus, he drove off forcing the minibus to crash into a lamp-post.

The incident resulted in injuries sustained by the driver of the minibus and the death of the passenger.

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ARAB TIMES

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ANYONE can sympathize with the suffering of a friend, but it requires a very fine nature to sympathize with a friend's success — Oscar Wilde, Irish-born writer (1854-1900).

China cautious Hanoi wants normal ties

KUNMING, China. (Reuters): During the Vietnam war, when Beijing supported Hanoi's communist forces, Chinese leaders often used the ancient proverb "Close as lips and teeth" to describe relations with their ally.

Years of hostility after Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia in 1978 and a border war in 1979 fractured the links.

Now Hanoi, weary of its Cambodian foray and eager to get its creaking economy in gear, is keen to normalise ties.

Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Dinh Nho Liem arrived in Beijing on Tuesday for talks on restoring bilateral ties.

Liem, who made two visits to China last year in an effort to normalise relations, told reporters at Beijing airport he was optimistic about his scheduled week-long visit, which would include talks on Cambodia.

Relations

"I am here to contribute to the normalisation of relations between the two countries," said Liem. "With efforts by both sides we are always optimistic."

He was expected to discuss Cambodia's future internal political alignment, an issue Hanoi has avoided in past talks with China.

Diplomats in Beijing said this was a further sign of Hanoi's interest in easing friction over Cambodia. But China has moved ahead cautiously.

If there is one place in China where the benefits of rapprochement are being weighed it is in Yunnan, this southwestern province which shares a lengthy border with China's former ally.

The guns on both sides have long since fallen silent. Where the two countries once traded artillery salvos, they now exchange less lethal merchandise — clothes, hot-water bottles and food.

In recent years a 20-km (12-mile) wide strip along the border has been opened to Vietnamese who are permitted to cross over to trade at five officially sanctioned markets in the province.

Normal

"Relations haven't returned to normal yet so we can't set up more," Zhu Chenghua, an official at Yunnan's Economic Commission, said in an interview in the provincial capital of Kunming.

"But if relations improve, of course, we would benefit more than other parts of China."

The friendship bridge linked the town of Hekou in Yunnan to Lao Gai in Vietnam before it was damaged in the 1979 border war. Trains carried supplies across the border to help North Vietnamese communists wage war against the capitalist south and its American allies.

"If the railway is put back in service, it would help. It would be in both our interests," said Zhu.

There are no figures for the value of border trade between the two communist states. It is conducted mainly by private traders, and in economies that rely on state planning, free market business is relatively minor.

Beijing has imposed restrictions on trade. Vietnamese who cross into China can buy only 30 yuan (\$6.35) worth of goods on each trip, according to Chinese officials.

China refuses to sell goods, like cotton, deemed to have strategic value, and it does not permit its citizens into Vietnam.

While Beijing takes a cautious view of trade with Vietnam, it is putting out the welcome mat for Hanoi's ally, Laos.

"Laos has been the back door to restoring ties with Vietnam," said a Western diplomat in Beijing.

Co-operation

The mayor of Vientiane visited Kunming in April, only a few days after the Laotian deputy minister of transport called on Yunnan officials to discuss a joint survey of the Mekong river to make it navigable to bigger boats and possible co-operation on road improvements.

Co-operation between the two countries in coal and tin mining is also under discussion. A trade arm of the Yunnan government is expected to set up an office in Vientiane soon and Laos may open an office in Kunming.

"The message to Vietnam is that if you are nice to us — like Laos, there may be rewards for you too," said a diplomat.

So far, the big rewards have eluded Hanoi. While Vietnam says it has withdrawn its troops from Cambodia, China insists this is a sham.

Beijing continues to arm the Khmer Rouge, who were toppled from power by invading Vietnamese troops and are now the strongest of the three guerrilla factions fighting the pro-Hanoi government in Phnom Penh.



Dinh Nho Liem

GLOBAL WARMING CONFERENCE



European fears assuaged

Kohl assumes important role

EEC welcomes unification

DUBLIN, Ireland. (AP): As German unification rapidly approaches, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has assumed an increasingly important role on the international stage.

Once viewed as an affable politician merely playing to the large conservative bloc in his nation, Kohl is probably the single most important voice in the 12-nation European Economic Community.

During Saturday's summit in Dublin, the EEC said it "warmly welcomes" a joining of the two German states. That declaration in large part reflects the efforts by Kohl's government to dispel initial European jitters.

Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey, the current EEC president, took the extraordinary step of inviting the 60-year-old Kohl to share the spotlight at the community's final news conference.

Dominated

Kohl, who dominated the briefing, called the EEC's full support of German unification a "historic hour."

The Kohl taking centre stage didn't go unnoticed in France, which has long prided itself on being the driving intellectual force behind the European Economic Community. There was even some grumbling.

"It was still in good taste, even a few months ago, to depict Helmut Kohl as a man with limited talents — as a provincial politician," said the influential Le Monde newspaper of Paris on Saturday.

"Today, people are starting to suspect him of wanting to carve up his neighbours and dominate the continent," the newspaper continued.

Kohl firmly rejects such assertions. He says a unified Germany with a combined population of nearly 80 million will serve the interests of the community.

The chancellor has undertaken a close collaboration with French President Francois Mitterrand on achieving political union.

That has left British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher even more firmly embedded in her role as the community's sceptical naysayer.

After he became chancellor in 1982, Kohl's frequent repetitions of the call by his Christian Democratic Union for a united Germany were often dismissed as fanciful dreaming.

Then came 1989 and the collapse of hardline communist governments across Eastern Europe. The political transformation included the downfall of Erich Honecker, Kohl's longtime nemesis as communist leader in East Berlin.

Control

A little more than four months after the Berlin Wall began to crumble on Nov 9, East Germans had given a Kohl-backed coalition firm control of government in East Berlin.

DUBLIN, (Reuters): Decried only weeks ago as a reckless nationalist, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has succeeded in winning almost unanimous foreign approval for rapid German unification.

The European Economic Community warmly welcomed German unity on Saturday, joining a growing line of world leaders hailing Kohl's plan for one of the biggest upheavals post-war Europe has seen.

The United States and the Soviet Union, the two superpowers who built up their post-war military machines on the premise of a divided Germany, had already given the green light.

Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, who in their collective communist past regularly denounced German nationalism, have also greeted unity as a natural and healthy development.

Bonn has worked long and hard to convince its neighbours — all faced with a "German question" at the beginning, middle and now the end of this century — that the new state will be a reliable friend rather than a Fourth Reich.

Commitment

At the same time, it has steered clear of acrimonious debates by stressing its commitment to Europe, so much so that West Germany and its EEC ally France deftly turned what was supposed to have been a special summit on unification into one on European political union.

"I believe the (EEC) partners have suddenly, Kohl's hopes were rapidly on their way to being fulfilled, propelled by a powerful business community eager to bring East Germany into its economic fold.

Kohl also has benefited from the limelight cast on the two Germans, with tourists now flocking to Berlin. Yet Kohl's rush to greater prominence has not come without controversy.

For several weeks, the chancellor frightened Europeans by failing to clearly renounce German claims dating to World War II over former Polish territories.

He compounded his woes by seeking an apology from the Poles for the mistreatment of millions of Germans forcibly expelled from Poland after the Nazi defeat.

recognised that German unification would not create problems but will heal a deep wound, namely the division of Europe," West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said on Sunday.

"For someone who is usually portrayed as a bull in a China shop, Kohl has handled unification very well," one European diplomat commented. "He has made sure that everyone is on his side so he has a free hand to proceed."

However, some are less enthusiastic than others.

The Kremlin, set to lose some influence abroad and prestige at home when the division it imposed after the World War II is reversed, accepts unity but wants Germany outside of Nato.

Warsaw is still nervous about its western border, drawn after the war to include German territory. Several groups, ranging from internationalists to many Jews and others who suffered under the Nazis, remain firmly opposed to unity.

Although EEC leaders have expressed confidence and prestige at would not upset their economies, they have yet to convince all the sceptics that they can escape the need for higher interest rates to contain the inflationary impact of monetary union between East and West Germany as the target date of July 2 approaches.

Conditions

At their Strasbourg summit last December, EEC leaders hedged their support for unification with strict conditions that betrayed a deep mistrust of what the Germans might be up to.

They included blunt reminders — embarrassing for West Germans who have spent the past 40 years in Western political, economic and defence alliances — that the unification process must be democratic and peaceful.

Other countries, especially France, were quick to criticise Kohl in March when his legalistic refusal to recognise Poland's western border made it look as if he would not stand up to a right-wing minority seeking to reclaim Germany lands beyond it.

But once Kohl supported a plan to guarantee the borders, the issue — the most controversial so far in the Germans' rush to unity — retreated into the background.

Mindful of how sensitive the unity question is, Bonn will have to keep up its diplomatic efforts for many months to come.

Next test comes today, when the two German foreign ministers and their colleagues from the four World War II victors — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France — meet in Bonn to start mapping out future security arrangements for a united Germany.

These "two-plus-four" talks aim to find a compromise acceptable to all sides by late this year, when it will be presented to the 35-nation conference on security and co-operation in Europe.

The chancellor travelled to Brussels on March 9 to assuage fears among Nato allies about German unification.

Interests

"German interests must be taken into account, but also the interests of all our friends and partners and neighbours in East and West must be taken into account," Kohl said then.

While Kohl is riding high for the time being, speculation is rising about how he will fare in the upcoming national elections, scheduled for Dec 2.

Many West Germans are worried about the staggering costs of unification, and Kohl has been unable to ease fears that a tax increase will be needed to finance unification.

Poland

Lone reformer tackles militia

WARSAW, (Reuters): Somewhere in the vast archives of Poland's secret police, there is probably a thick dossier on the man who is trying to reform it.

But Krzysztof Kozlowski hasn't found it yet, and he has more important things to worry about.

The former opposition journalist, who became deputy interior minister last month, faces the formidable task of overhauling the security apparatus that propped up four decades of communism in Poland.

"There are quite a lot of people in this building who were responsible for quite terrible things," Kozlowski, 58, said in an interview.

"The police was so manipulated by the communists. It was an instrument in the hands of the Communist Party," he added.

Many Poles still distrust and fear the SB security police which, together with the Citizens' Militia Police Force, is controlled by the Interior Ministry.

Scandal

Only last week, a potential scandal broke when fire gutted the flat of pro-Solidarity journalist Jerzy Jachowicz, who had received death threats after writing articles on the secret police.

Jachowicz's wife died when leaping from their second-floor apartment. Officials said the fire was almost certainly arson, and the Solidarity paper Gazeta Wyborcza linked it with about 15 unexplained arson attacks on opposition activists and priests in the 1970s and 1980s.

A parliamentary commission is investigating claims that police carried out dozens of political murders in the past decade.

The Solidarity-led government is pushing through legislation to transform the Citizens' Militia into a conventional police force and disband the SB, creating a new intelligence and anti-terrorist force in its place.

Kozlowski, who is supervising these reforms, appreciates the irony of his position.

Like all Interior Ministry employees, he has acquired a blue identity card proclaiming him a member of the Citizens' Militia. Even his secretary is a police officer.

And as a long-time editor of the Catholic weekly Tygodnik Powszechny, which for years was the main focus of press opposition to the communists, he has also long been known to the secret police.

File

"Of course there's a big file on each of us. But perhaps it was liquidated, perhaps it no longer exists. I say 'perhaps' because I'm not sure. I don't know."

Kozlowski has asked Education Minister Henryk Samsonowicz to set up a commission to examine police archives held in Warsaw and in each of Poland's 49 administrative districts. The Education Ministry has overall responsibility for state archives.

"It's very difficult to say why people collaborated. There were money problems, career problems, but mostly fear was the motive. Mostly they were poor people, morally poor. It was a sort of blackmail," he said.

"Above all, it makes sad reading. Very sad." But Kozlowski does not believe the secret police in Poland ever achieved the same stranglehold on society as elsewhere in the Eastern bloc.

"In East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Romania, society was really crushed, atomised," he said. "Here, it was always a living society which defended itself and resisted in forums and collaborations."

Quit

Kozlowski notes with satisfaction that 11 generals have quit senior Interior Ministry posts since he took up his appointment there in March at the request of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

But he says his powers to sweep away the old guard are limited. Many officials, he notes ironically, proclaim their support for Mazowiecki's government and have no intention of leaving.

"It's not a question of Mr Kozlowski arriving and kicking out the generals and colonels. There are 7,500 officers still working here — functionaries employed by the militia. I'm still on my own," he said.

Kozlowski plans to create a civilian ministry, drastically pruning to around 1,000 employees. He is seeking help from Britain and France in training officers for the new police force.

"For the moment, the militia is frustrated, completely frustrated. Society is against the militia, and without collaboration with society no police can work effectively, without people helping them," Kozlowski said.

"Everyone was against the communists, against the party and against the police. We have to change that attitude, because otherwise we have no chance."

QUOTE ME

"We have solved a lot of political problems here but we will not make it economically and our political achievement may be spoiled in the end. I am not asking for charity but for normal co-operation." — Poland's Solidarity leader Lech Walesa said after a meeting with West German President Weizsaecker.

"We've arrived at this historic point by maintaining a strong partnership with our European allies. Nato will remain vital to America's strategic role. It is a proven structure upon which to base our security and from which to promote a stable, co-operative European order." — US President George Bush said in a news conference at the White House.

"There really can be no new security relationship in Europe... without a CFE (conventional forces) agreement. There is no specific quid pro quo here... circumstances have changed, conditions have changed and this alliance and the United States should adapt as a consequence." — US Secretary of State James Baker said in a news conference in Brussels.

"He was one of those, like other leaders of the church, who really was put on the position where, in order to keep any church alive at all... had to acquiesce and do what the government tells them to do, and he was one of those who quite clearly did that." — Jane Ellis, a scholar at Keston College Centre in Britain said in an interview about the head of Russian orthodox church, Patriarch Pimen, who died on Thursday at the age of 79.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1525 — Peasants' revolt in south Germany is suppressed.
- 1537 — German Lutherans refuse to accept Pope Paul III's invitation to attend a general council.
- 1570 — Turkey declares war on Venice for refusing to surrender Cyprus, and Spain comes to Venice's aid.
- 1646 — British forces under King Charles I surrender to Scots at Newark, England.
- 1762 — Russia and Prussia sign treaty of St Petersburg, under which Russia restores all conquests and forms defensive and offensive alliance.
- 1821 — France's Napoleon Bonaparte dies in exile on island of St Helena.
- 1824 — British troops take over Rangoon, Burma.
- 1931 — People's national convention in Nanking, China, adopts provisional constitution.
- 1936 — Italian forces occupy Addis Ababa, ending Abyssinian (Ethiopian) war.
- 1961 — Astronaut Alan Shepard Jr, first US space explorer, is rocketed 185 kilometres into space from Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- 1963 — Algeria's foreign minister Mohammed Khemisti dies three weeks after being wounded by assassin's bullet.
- 1964 — Israel announces that first water is flowing from its new pipeline from Sea of Galilee to Negev desert, despite Arab objections to the project.
- 1978 — Red Brigades in Italy announce they are carrying out death sentence against former premier Aldo Moro, whose body is found two days later.
- 1988 — French assault team storms cave in French Pacific territory of Noumea, New Caledonia, and frees 22 gendarmes and prosecutor held hostage by Melanesian separatists.
- 1989 — Estonia's Communist Party removes 22 party leaders in sweep that gives greater strength to reformers.

Taiwan chooses military premier

TAIPEI, (Reuters): Taiwan's President may have hoped to consolidate his power with the surprise choice of a military man as premier, but analysts on Thursday said the plan may backfire and Lee Teng-Hui may end up a figurehead.

Lee on Wednesday stunned Taiwan by nominating Defence Minister Hau Pei-Tsun, a four-star general who last December stepped down as the island's longest-serving chief of general staff, as premier.

Since martial law ended in 1987, Taiwan's people had grown used to steady democratic reforms and the diminishment of the military. Before the announcement, analysts and the local press were unanimous in predicting the appointment of a politician, and Hau's name was not mentioned even in jest.

Compromise

Analysts said Lee was forced to choose Hau as a compromise to calm fiercely competing factions within the ruling Nationalist Party that threatened the position of the president, a man without a power base or ties to the army.

"Lee failed to keep his personal power because he had such a very bad relationship with party bureaucrats and the military," said Hsi Fu, a Taiwan University professor with close relations both with the government and opposition.

"Lee sacrificed the establishment of institutional democracy... the danger is having a 'strong man,' and inciting conflict with students and intellectuals. There could be trouble later," he said.

Hau, who provided the military might behind the Chiang family dynasty that governed Taiwan for almost 40 years, laughed at suggestions he would be a dictatorial leader.

"There are many examples in democratic countries of military men running the government. I'm going to run the government, not dominate it," he said in an interview with the island's three television stations.

But analysts said Hau, 71, with the military firmly loyal to him personally, would be a much stronger figure than the president.

Obscurity

Lee, an agricultural economist plucked from obscurity to be the late president Chiang Ching-Kuo's vice-president, succeeded to office on Chiang's death in January 1988.

Taiwan's first native-born president, Lee was elected to a new term in his own right in March and will be inaugurated on May 20.

"Lee may think he can control Hau but most people think Hau, with his military background, will control Lee," said Lin Chia-Cheng, a political scientist at Soochow University.

Some analysts said Lee hoped Hau, with his background and power outside the political arena, would be less of a threat than the incumbent premier, Lee Huan, a consummate politician.

"Hau is regarded by many people as a strong figure but politically he is not very sophisticated. Lee can play his own game," said Lu Ya-Li, a Taiwan University political scientist.

The current premier, no relation to the president, and his cabinet will resign on May 10, officials said on Thursday.

Hau's well-known conservative views could alienate the island's 80 per cent native-born majority.

Hau fled to Taiwan with the Nationalist government after the communist victory in China in 1949, and has strongly attacked any move toward "Taiwan independence," saying the island's only future is reunification with the mainland.

Taiwan officially considers itself the legitimate government of China, and Parliament is dominated by ageing legislators who only faced the voters once, on the mainland 43 years ago.

Opportunity

"We had a good opportunity for parliamentary or constitutional reform. It's hard to see Hau doing that," Lin said.

Nationalist Party officials said Lee chose a man who would act decisively on problems of crime and stalled legislation — 37 major bills still await parliamentary approval, part of a backlog of more than 300 legislative acts.

But the island's fledgling opposition party immediately promised to fight the appointment in Parliament, which must approve new premiers.

The opposition's 23 members in the 269-seat Parliament wield power by filibustering and fighting, even when they cannot win votes.

Kabul launches major offensive

ISLAMABAD, May 4. (Agencies): Hundreds of Afghan government troops and tanks backed by jet fighters seized several positions from the US-backed Afghan resistance in a massive offensive near the strategic eastern city of Jalalabad, rebel sources said yesterday.

Meanwhile, US-Soviet talks on ending the conflict in Afghanistan concluded there should be election supervised by the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Conference, the New York Times reported.

The Times said US officials and Pakistani diplomats disclosed that Moscow would accept elections to choose a new government in Kabul and Washington would let Najibullah run in the elections if he resigned the presidency first.

It said the Soviet Union had dropped its demand that Najibullah be guaranteed a role in the future elected government. In the assault, rebel sources in Pakistan said the forces of the pro-Soviet government killed three commanders and several other mujahideen. The assault, launched Monday night north-east of Jalalabad, 70 miles (112 km) east of Kabul, occurred along a main road leading to rebel bases in neighbouring Pakistan.

Official Kabul radio said troops killed 110 rebels in a "retaliatory action" Tuesday against rebels who attempted to attack Jalalabad, which is held by government forces. It gave no further details.

The rebel sources said the government was attempting to recapture positions seized by the rebels early last year, before the Feb 15, 1989, withdrawal of Soviet troops that backed the communist regime of President Najibullah.

The mujahideen, based in Pakistan and backed by the United States and Saudi Arabia, hold about 90 per cent of Afghanistan's territory but have failed to capture any major urban centres despite the Soviet pullout.

Najibullah has defied Western predictions of his swift overthrow by the rebels following the Soviet withdrawal.

Jalalabad was the scene of a massive offensive by the mujahideen in March last year. The operation ended several weeks later in a bloody and humiliating defeat for the resistance.

The Afghan government will convene a grand tribal assembly this month to discuss ending the 11-year civil war, government sources said yesterday.

Selective Baghdad embargo on Britain

LONDON, May 4. (Agencies): Iraq has imposed an unofficial selective embargo on British companies in retaliation for Britain's seizure of parts for a "superjet", the Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) reported yesterday.

"So far the ban applies to British firms involved mainly in the military and industrial sectors, the magazine said.

MEED said British firms registered in Iraq were asked to a meeting at Baghdad's industry and military industrialisation ministry yesterday and told the ministry would place no more contracts with British suppliers until the issue was resolved.

The weekly magazine, in an article to be published on May 4, quoted the ministry's senior undersecretary Abdul-Majid Al-Ajami as telling British businessmen that London's intervention against contracts placed with British suppliers was making it difficult to plan development incorporating their goods.

MEED said no official statement was expected and that the ministry had said it did not know if other ministries would follow suit.

The London-based magazine quoted some British firms as saying that other ministries and private sector businesses have been told not to place contracts with Britain unless there was no alternative.

Some reports suggest Baghdad is stopping Iraqis from travelling to Britain for training, the magazine added.

The managing director of a company that manufactured parts for a suspected Iraqi "superjet" project appeared in court yesterday on charges of violating a British arms embargo.

Peter V. Mitchell, 42, managing director of Walter Somers Ltd., appeared briefly before a magistrate and was released on surety of £25,000 (\$40,000).

Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut opens a three-day official visit to Iraq tomorrow at a time when relations between the two countries are strained over the use of Euphrates river waters.

Security Council remains inconclusive on Jewish influx

UNITED NATIONS, May 4. (Agencies): A Palestinian spokesman yesterday told the Security Council it had a duty to make sure Israel respected its international obligations and not repeatedly postpone action critical of the Jewish state.

Zuhdi Labib Terzi, representative of the Palestine Observer Mission, was addressing the sixth session of a debate initiated on March 15 following Arab fears that Moscow's emigration policies could result in thousands of Jewish settlers in Israeli-occupied territories.

He cited the Security Council's foot-

dragging on a draft resolution that would call for a halt in massive Soviet-Jewish emigration to Palestine.

The draft, said Terzi, has been going around for weeks and there is no certainty that it will be acted upon.

Terzi called attention to recent reports that the number of Jewish immigrants to Israel has hit a new record, that 30,000 Soviet Jews have immigrated to Israel since the beginning of the year and that the budget will increase to accommodate 120,000 immigrants in 1990.

He also pointed out the United States is considering a \$400 million housing

loan to Israel, but needs guarantees that the funds will not be used for settlements in the occupied territories.

But Terzi contended, "the supply of \$400 million would be encouragement to the government of Israel to establish more settlements."

Diplomats said everyone was waiting for Washington, which prefers not to have any resolution, to decide whether to enter negotiations on a final document or veto whatever treaty may be put to a vote.

Terzi also said the United Nations should "establish a mechanism" to monitor human rights violations in the occupied territories at close range.

Waiting for a government to be established in Israel seemed to be "drugging" the council in examining a draft resolution that "had been going around for weeks," he said.

Greece and Egypt also used yesterday's debate to condemn other Israeli actions, including the government's support for Jewish settlers who moved into a building in the Christian quarter of occupied Jerusalem's Old City.

Egyptian ambassador Amr Moussa made a special plea to Israel to put an end to its practices against Palestinians and sit down and negotiate.

● United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar yesterday criticised Israel for not allowing the UN to play the mediator role in solving the deadlocked Middle East problem, and condemned settlement of Soviet Jews in occupied Arab territories.

"Israel rejects to co-operate with the (UN) organisation for the sake of peace in the Middle East," said De Cuellar in response to questions from Kuwait News Agency following a meeting he held with Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock.

Arens, Dimitrov sign accords to promote co-operation

Bulgaria, Israel restore ties

SOFIA, May 4. (Agencies): Bulgaria and Israel restored diplomatic relations yesterday, bringing Israel closer to a new era of friendship with Eastern Europe after a 23-year rift.

Israel Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and his Bulgarian counterpart Boyko Dimitrov signed an agreement at a ceremony in Sofia's Foreign Ministry.

The two countries also signed an agreement to promote economic and scientific co-operation, including air transport, telecommunications, tourism and agriculture.

The move makes Bulgaria the fourth East European state to reverse a Soviet-led decision to break with Israel over the 1967 Middle East war. Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland had renewed relations with Israel since September and East Germany said last month it also wished

to establish ties. Romania alone refused to follow Moscow's decision to break relations and maintained links with Israel.

Arens said Israel had always held a special regard for Bulgaria, which managed to save some 48,000 Jews from deportation to Nazi death camps during World War Two.

Bulgarians say that many Jews were sent to safety in remote mountain villages and in some areas local farmers threatened to tie on railway tracks to prevent the arrival of deportation trains.

"Fifty years ago the Jewish people were abandoned by almost everyone in the world," Arens said during the signing ceremony.

"Only one nation, the Bulgarian people, took the risk of saving its Jewish community. This heroic step of the Bulgarian people is part of the history of the people of Israel."

Although only about 5,000 Jewish people remain in Bulgaria, there are thought to be about 40,000 Jews of Bulgarian origin living in Israel.

"It is remarkable that the movement toward democracy in Eastern Europe is accompanied by a movement toward re-establishing relations with the only democratic country in the Near East, Israel," Arens told a news conference.

During the signing ceremony, about 150 Palestinian students staged a protest outside the building, waving banners and placards that read, "We want peace," and "Return our land."

Dimitrov said the restoration of ties with Israel marked the beginning of a new chapter in relations between the two nations, but stressed the move was "not at the expense of other countries."

The Israeli Foreign Ministry also has been made toward improving relations with Yugoslavia. A ministry spokesman said a special envoy from Belgrade met with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu Wednesday as part of "preliminary talks toward normalisation of relations."

Envoy Milan Zupan also visited Arens and Netanyahu to visit Yugoslavia in the near future, the spokesman said.

Hostage fate linked to Arabs jailed in Israel

BEIRUT, May 4. (Agencies): Lebanon's most influential pro-Iranian leader said today the fate of the remaining Western hostages was linked to that of Muslims jailed in Israel.

"You can see that the world wants to exert pressure everywhere in favour of some people (the hostages) but is not ready to press Israel to stop bombing us or to free our prisoners who worked for the cause of freedom," Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah told a Friday prayer gathering.

"If we do not have our freedom, we will not respect the liberty of the world which does not care for ours... we don't want anybody's freedom to be at our expense," he said.

Meanwhile, Iran and its major ally in Lebanon have accused Washington and London of not doing enough to free Western hostages, but President George Bush said he would signal goodwill to Tehran provided no deal was involved.

In Tehran, President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani accused the United States of not working enough to obtain the release of six Americans held by pro-Iranian kidnappers.

He said the United States was acting like a stubborn child in failing to show goodwill in return for the release in Lebanon during the last two weeks of US hostages Robert Pollitt and Frank Reed.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, under pressure to do more to win the release of British hostages held in Lebanon, said yesterday she would never make a deal with their captors.

Rejecting allegations she was neglecting the captive Britons, Thatcher told Parliament: "We very much want to get our hostages out and every day we are trying to do something to that end."

● The United States and Iran wound up three days of talks on some of the financial disputes between them yesterday, but announced no agreement.

The two sides discussed a lump sum settlement for 2,300 US "small claims" of under \$250,000 before the Iran-US claims tribunal, set up in 1981 to handle financial claims arising out of the 1979 Iranian revolution.

Tribunal sources said an undisclosed lump sum was agreed but the wording of a settlement had not been finalised.

● Freed US hostage Frank Reed left for the United States today after saying Britain should do more to free two of its citizens still captive in Lebanon. "They are my best mates, those guys, we're going to get them out," Reed said of Brian Keenan and John McCarthy shortly before he left the US Air Force hospital in Wiesbaden to begin his journey back to the United States.



Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens speaks with Bulgarian counterpart Boyko Dimitrov (left) after arriving to re-establish diplomatic relations with Bulgaria which were broken off in 1967. (Reuters wirephoto)



Rehavam Ze'evi (right), a parliamentarian from the right-wing Moledet Party, carries a Torah scroll on Thursday while ultra-nationalist Jewish settlers dance and sing as they march to Joseph's tomb, a site holy to both Jews and Muslims. (Reuters wirephoto)

Settlers stir Arab protests

Curfew in Nablus during Jew ceremony

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 4. (AP): Dancing and Jewish Israeli settlers surrounded by right-wing lawmakers brought a Torah scroll to a Jewish ceremony in the heart of West Bank's largest city yesterday, stirring Arab protests by their show of support.

The army clamped a curfew on some 100,000 residents of Nablus and the nearby refugee camps in an effort to contain Arab outbursts arising out of fear that Joseph's tomb, a site holy to both Jews and Muslims, would become the scene of the city's first settlement.

It also thwarted settler plans to bring into Nablus 17 trucks of supporters for the ceremony in which a new Torah scroll was brought into the city. Only 100 settlers were allowed to take part.

Palestinians view the ceremony as a symbolic increase of Jewish presence in the occupied lands that comes amidst the government's stepped-up "resettlement" drive.

Dozens of soldiers stood guard around the settlers, some with comrades sitting on their shoulders, danced with the scroll, carried under a violet, embroidered canopy.

Several right-wing members of parliament, including Speaker Dov Shilensky of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc, attended the ceremony at the invitation of the settlers.

The military permitted a small group from the leftist Peace Now movement to stage a protest at the site, the legendary burial place of the son of the Biblical patriarch Jacob.

In a futile attempt to defuse the settlers' religious hymns, the leftist protesters stood in line, singing "the song of peace."

Peace, a famous Israeli anti-military song.

Yossi Sarid, a left-wing lawmaker who led the protesters, said the ceremony amounted to a political provocation.

Several hours before the ceremony, soldiers searched Palestinian homes and erected observation posts on rooftops near the settlement, at the edge of Nablus, Arab witnesses said. A helicopter hovered above and roadblocks were put up around the city to keep non-residents out.

Chaim Shikata, a pro-PLO Nablus lawyer, warned in a telephone interview that "a settlement in Nablus will create a new wave of confrontations with the settlers... this provokes how the radicals in Israel are working against peace."

Left-wing Israelis joined the outcry. Legislator Dedi Zuckerman said the Nablus ceremony was "part of a much larger picture" of Shamir's increased settlement drive.

A militant Islamic group urged Palestinians yesterday to launch armed attacks on Jewish immigrants to Israel in what it called a "revolution of the knives."

The Islamic Jihad Organisation, issued a leaflet in the occupied territories denouncing Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for allowing the mass exodus of Jews.

Israeli troops yesterday demolished three houses of Palestinians and sealed a fourth one in the vicinity of Ramallah. Radio Israel reported today.

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek met with President George Bush yesterday and said afterward he was convinced Bush "has no objection to Jews settling all over Jerusalem without any exception."

Israel says it has stopped signing new military contracts with South Africa and is merely honouring existing ones. It has denied co-operating with Pretoria on a missile capable of carrying nuclear arms.

Last November, John Kelly, US assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, told a congressional committee he could not confirm reports that Israel was helping South Africa develop a ballistic missile, possibly in exchange for weapons-grade plutonium for its own nuclear programme.

But the official said there was no doubt that a missile that was test launched in South Africa last July could be traced to Israel.

"What is convincingly clear from the circumstantial evidence was whatever was launched from South Africa traces its origins in some sense back to Israel, either by technological co-operation or supply of components or delivery of a whole vehicle."

On the new Chinese missile, the official said Beijing had promised not to sell intermediate-range missiles to the Middle East but had not defined what it meant by intermediate-range or which countries were included in its definition of the Middle East.

● Khamenei said his comments had been interpreted as an insult to Mohajeri. "Ayatollah Khamenei said when he uttered that statement he did not mean to insult Mohajeri and that he owes the vice-president an apology if his comments do sound like an insult," the national Iranian news agency Irna quoted Khamenei as saying in a note to Mohajeri.

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Shamir rejects Mubarak remarks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 4. (Reuters): Israel has criticised Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for blaming Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for a halt in progress towards a Middle East peace settlement.

"Mr Shamir has already stated he remains totally committed to his peace plan and that this plan will be one of the cornerstones of the government he will form," Avi Pazner, media adviser to the prime minister, said yesterday.

"We don't believe that such criticism by President Mubarak has made it helpful to the cause of peace," he added.

Shamir, leader of the hardline Likud party, is trying to form a narrow government with small extreme rightist parties. He has said he will not accept a US proposal which would lead in first-ever Israeli-Palestinian talks.

Meanwhile, a power struggle at the top of the rival Labour Party erupted after leader Shimon Peres' failure to form a dovish government after five weeks of trying.

The simmering tension between Peres and former defence minister Yitzhak Rabin, who favours forming another national unity government between Labour and Likud, boiled over at a forum of former party ministers.

"I believe the members of the party will choose the one they believe can better bring about results in elections," Rabin said on Israeli television after the meeting in the first public challenge to Peres' party leadership.

Rabin, 68, enforced an iron-fist policy against an uprising in the occupied territories when he was defence minister and has been traditionally on better terms with Likud's Shamir than Peres.

Shamir, 74, told the National Religious Party (NRP) yesterday he saw no prospect of forming another national unity government as long as Peres was at the head of the party.

"At present such a (unity) government is impossible because Shimon Peres insists that I must say yes to the Baker questions," Shamir said at the meeting, adding that it was not possible to wait until any change in leadership occurred.

A group calling itself the Leftist Revolutionary Forces claimed responsibility for the attack last night, which caused superficial damage to the consulates in Rotterdam and in the eastern Dutch city of Deventer.

● A state security court today released two Turkish communist leaders arrested in November 1987 upon their arrival from exile in West Germany.

Nihat Sargint, 64, secretary-general of the outlawed Turkish Labour Party, and Haydar Kululu, 46, secretary-general of the Turkish Communist Party in exile, are standing trial on charges of attempting to stage a communist revolution in Turkey.

● Arsonists have attacked Turkish consulates in the Netherlands' two cities, police said today.

● A group calling itself the Leftist Revolutionary Forces claimed responsibility for the attack last night, which caused superficial damage to the consulates in Rotterdam and in the eastern Dutch city of Deventer.

Libya building new chem plant: report

BONN, May 4. (UPI): A West German magazine alleged today Libya is building a new chemical weapons plant, possibly with West German help.

The weekly illustrated magazine Bunte attributed its report to West German intelligence sources. It released a brief report on the plant in advance of a story in its next edition.

Bunte said an underground chemical weapons plant was being constructed at Sabha, 403 miles (650 km) south of the capital of Tripoli.

It gave no details of the involvement of West German firms. It said only the plant was being built "possibly with help of German firms."

"The new poison gas factory is an underground installation," the magazine said.

In March there were reports that another plant at Rabta, suspected by the United States of making chemical weapons had been damaged by fire. The reports were not confirmed and some intelligence sources expressed doubt there had been a fire at all.

The sources indicated the report might have been a hoax to avert the possibility of air attacks to destroy the plant.

The head of the West German Tula construction company confirmed yesterday two of his employees had been detained in Libya, presumably in connection with Libyan allegations West German agents had been responsible for the fire.

Guenter Tula, the head of the firm, said none of his employees had anything to do with the Rabta plant. He said his firm was active as a subcontractor for large West German firms in Libya. Last year the Bonn government after repeatedly denying US claims West German firms had helped build the Rabta plant finally admitted West German companies had shipped equipment to the Libyan plant without the necessary export permits.

Kerpen Hippenstein-Imhausen, the head of the Imhausen Chemie Company, was arrested on charges of breaking export laws.

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EVENTS

Kuwait Indian Telugu Association's 9th anniversary



A group dance by young dancers.



'Radha Krishna' dance by Ranjani and Purva.



A view of the audience with Abdul Khaliq (third from right) First Secretary of Indian Embassy and Mrs. Abdul Khaliq (fourth from right)

THE Kuwait Indian Telugu Association has organised a spectacular Cultural Programme to celebrate its 9th anniversary at 4pm on April 27, 1990 at Sharq Co-operative Society's Auditorium. The programme has been inaugurated by the chief guest Arun Kumar Budhiraja, ambassador of India to

Kuwait.

The Kuwait Indian Telugu Association is for 25,000 (approx) the Indian Telugu-speaking people living in Kuwait from all walks of Telugu community irrespective of caste, creed, religion and class. The association was formed 9 years ago with main purpose to

promote the welfare of the Telugu community in Kuwait as well as in Andhra Pradesh, India in social and cultural fields. Since then the association has organised many cultural programmes to entertain the Telugu community in Kuwait and made generous contributions towards the welfare of the poor

people back at home by giving financial assistance, clothes to poor students and donating sewing machines to women welfare institutions and also raising funds for "Chief Minister's Relief Fund" for flood victims.

Following the inauguration, the variety entertainment programme has started with a

prayer song and dance. The folk dance and song "Telugu Jaathi Manadi" was the highlight of the evening which propagates the regional integrity of Telugu people. Various classical, semi-classical dance were performed by young artists of "Naarthana" and mono acts were also presented to make the

programme more colourful. The prizes to the participants were distributed by Mr Abdul Khaliq, First Secretary at the Indian Embassy in Kuwait. The events were well organised.

The programme was concluded with national anthem.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Islamic Art

We have the pleasure to announce the opening of the "Masterpieces of Islamic art from the Hermitage and from the Daghestan Museums" to which you are cordially invited on Tuesday May 1, 1990 at 5.00 pm at Dar Al Aitbar Al Islamiyyah.

The exhibition will be on display daily (except Saturdays) from May 1 until May 31, 1990.

Boushahri Gallery

AN exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists will be held at the Boushahri Gallery, North Salmiya Bldg., Salem Al Mubarak St., from May 7. The month-long exhibition is being held under the patronage of Dr Hassan Ali Ibrahim. Some of the artists who will exhibit their works include Jaafar Islah, Jafar Kaki, Rashed Diyah, Dia Al Azzawi and Saleh Jame'ei. It will be open to the public for a month. Timings: 9 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 7.30 pm.

SOCIAL

Saligocars

CALLING all Saligocars... to respond to the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam, at 11.30 am. For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel No. 2406936 (Res), Aloa Carvalho, 2411442 Res, 246121, Cedric D'Mello, Res. 3986469 and Paul D'Cruz, Res. 2444729, Tony Cordeiro off. 2415401, Res. 2412337.

Lil. May meeting

COME enjoy our meeting this month at the Holiday Inn in the ballroom on Monday, May 7, 1990.

Our programme this month is a traditional Middle Eastern wedding demonstration which promises to be fun and exciting. Doors open - 6.00pm. Doors close - 7.30pm. Programme starts - 8.30pm sharp.

For further information contact Barbara - 5325131.

German-Speaking Cultural Association

THE next coffee morning for German-speaking ladies will be held at 10 am on Sunday, May 6, at the Kuwait International Hotel. Latest information and plans would be announced. All German-speakers are requested to make an effort to attend. All are welcome.

Garden Fete

Hyderabad Festival Committee announces the holding of a garden fete on Friday, May 11, Messilah Beach Resort. It will be open to all families. Hyderabad food, magic show, games and a lot of fun is promised for families. A fancy dress competition is also proposed. Parents of children below 12 who wish to take part in the event can register children's name on 5619071, Mr. Khan.

Ladies International League

SUMMER bazaar: Regency Palace Hotel, Friday May 11, from 10 am to 6.00 pm. Something for everyone. See you there.

Cosmos Summer Nite

KUWAIT Cosmos Hockey Club presents Cosmos Summer Nite, an open-air event of the decade on May 10, 1990 at 21.00 hrs until dawn at the lush green lawns of the Hunting and Equestrian Club (by the pool-side). Music by The Hurricane & The Equalisers. Highlights: *Cosmos Summer Nite special; *Novelty dance: "Table surprises"; *Ballroom competition; *Live exhibition of the famous Brazilian "Lambada" performed by the team of the Kuwait India Festival. Plenty of gifts in store inclusive of air tickets and not forgetting the aroma of an exotic buffet prepared by exclusively Indian chefs.

Come one, come all - pick your invitation and make your table reservations from the undermentioned members: Fortes - 4741727 (R); Dama - 5623621 (R); Vincent - 4887140 (R).

Guardian Angel Club

The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkani drama entitled "Ostorocho Mog" (Woman's Love) directed by Remmie J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC, Goan Charlie Chaplin - Jancito Vaz, Ophelia, H. Britton and Sehy Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

Daniella Dhow Trip

FOR reasons beyond the control of the Daniella Club, the Dhow trip for Daees has been postponed till Friday, May 18, at 10 am. For reservations call Jyote Tel. 2449610 before May 5.

Hyderabad

Friday (May 11, 1990), Messilah Beach Resort, 3.00 pm - Once in a life time chance to taste and enjoy delicious and mouth watering dishes. Games, lucky draw and magic show for children. Prize distribution.

Thursday (May 17, 1990), Carlot Tower Hotel, Fahd Al Salem St. 8.00 pm - Highlighting the golden era of Hyderabad followed by a grand Mushaira by guest and local poets and release of souvenir.

Friday (May 18, 1990), Starlite theatre, Entertainment City (Doha), Kuwait, 5.00 pm - Vaudeville function and musical night of ghazals by invitee artists from Hyderabad and local artists, light music and many more items.

Sponsors: Mohd Hoshdar Khan, Mohd Shaheeo H. Khan.

For further details and information please contact: General information: Mohamad Fashuddin Chand, Tel: 2402603-5659647; Mohamad Naseeruddin, Tel: 4736953. Sports: Dr Naidu, Tel: 4842578; Karim Idan, Tel: 3716247. Musical programme: Dr Shakeel Khan, Tel: 5317885; Shahnoor Khan, Tel: 5644539. Souvenir: N. Nizamuddin Ahmed, Tel: 4745537; Zakiauddin, Tel: 2428105; Mohamad H. Khan, Tel: 2402019. Literary: Dr Sami Khan, Tel: 4811514; Ehtesham Uddin, Tel: 2463116. Sponsors: Mohd Hoshdar Khan, Mohd Shaheeo H. Khan.

ACT

ACT's production of "Voyages", an evening of words and music about travel, will be presented one night only at the Mousetrap Theatre, New English School on Thursday, May 10, 1990. This readers theatre presentation includes selections of humorous and inspiring poetry and prose by contemporary and classical authors. 3KD admission includes light buffet. Call 5620332. 4-8 pm for reservations. Tickets are also available at the door.

Narmada's Malayalam play

NARMADA Theatres will be staging a social Malayalam play, A Love Mantra From Ujjain, at Iodan Arts Circle auditorium, Fuaitees oo Friday, May 11, 1990 at 6.30 pm. Written by Varghese Paul, lyrics by Rajendra Bahu, music by Antony Joseph, the play is co-directed by Sheryl John and directed by Jayan Pattathu. Various characters are being represented by popular stage artists among the Malayalee community in Kuwait.

Konkani Theatre

MAY 10-11: Roseferns and his 15 member troupe arrive from Goa to present two Konkani dramas namely new release Xinxo at 7 pm (May 10) and repeated at 4 pm (May 11) and diamond jubilee completed Beiman Tum at 10.30 am on May 11 at Granada Cinema, Kheitan. Contrary to reports circulating, THIS IS NOT A LOCAL SHOW and Roseferns, popularly known as Goa's King of Centuries should not be mistaken for one local identical namesake in Kuwait. Tickets available at Raja Stores Tel. 2412970, Tony 5655056, Wilson 3726038, Manuel/Rommel 4816836, Rocky 3924159, Val 5614506, Canary Video 2459521 and Alex Martins. An Expatriate Club presentation.

Konkani non-stop show

A Konkani non-stop show entitled Koxit Ani Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), writ-

ten and directed by Epa de Utorda, organised by Utorda Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3.30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawaii.

For more information contact 4817857.

Hyderabad

The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad (DECCEN) invites essays in either Urdu, Telugu or English languages in not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Quli Qutub Shah - the Architect of Hyderabad; 2. Contribution of Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan towards modern Hyderabad; 3. Hyderabad City as I saw her (for school students only).

The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadis and their children residing in Kuwait.

A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990. All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convenor Literary Committee, PO Box 23343, Safat, 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

Approb association competition

ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen has again extended the last date of its essay competition from 15th April to 31st May, 1990. The date has been extended at the popular demand because many interested students were unable to participate in the competition due to examinations and later beginning of the Holy month of Ramadan.

The essay competition on the topic "My role in building a better Pakistan" is being held on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Pakistan resolution. Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays in Urdu or English, which should be between 1,000 to 1,500 words.

Four prizes of KD100 each (2 each for Urdu and English) will be awarded to the best articles in each group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants. The panel of judges includes: Dr M.I. Saleem, Dr Ali Jaffrey and Abdus Sattar Ghazali.

Essays may be mailed to: APPROB, P.O. Box 2351, Salmiya - Kuwait - 22024. For further details, contact: 2425315, Fax: 5323751.

Indian Cuisine Centre

Indian art of fancied lac bangles and designful henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant.

Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

HOTELS

Kuwait International Hotel

FAILAKA: Offers a celebration menu. Promises to be a gourmet's delight. Special Arabic appetizer and desert buffet with a choice of soups and main courses. Live entertainment too.

LA PALMA: Eid gala brunch buffet for lunch and extensive Arabic buffet for dinner with oriental band.

LA PALMA POOL: Surpr-

ise barbeque for lunch with jazz band.

GARDEN POOL: Superb Kuhl Khao Mongolian barbeque. Mix and match your lunch while it is prepared according to your palate.

LA PATISSERIE: Oriental sweets buffet with tea and coffee. Plenty of take-away too.

CHILDREN'S CORNER: Star of the show "AFL" will land with his spaceship at the Kuwait International Games, Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Kiddie Castle will provide on-stop excitement from 12 noon to 3.00 pm.

All details at 2530000 ext. 8039 or 8040.

Kuwait Sheraton

RICCARDO Restaurant: The Riccardo restaurant with its famous Italian cuisine will be open for lunch and live entertainment with "Franco and Regina" every night. Hunt Room: The famous Hunt Room restaurant offers some of the best meat and fish preparation for lunch and dinner with live entertainment nightly.

Le Tarbouche: Open for lunch and dinner. Le Tarbouche offers a wide selection of hot and cold buffet dishes for families and friends. Al Hamra: Enjoy the Arabian Night theme at Al Hamra with delicious Arabic dishes buffet style, nightly entertainment by Gli Amici and singer Maha.

SPORTS

Yoga lessons

For fitness and slimming Kuwait International Hotel offers yoga lessons for ladies and men, every Sunday and Tuesday from 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm and on Friday from 10.30 am to 11.30 am. For more information contact Kuwait International's Recreation Department at 2530000 ext. 8050 or Tanya at 5626529.

Kuwait Rugby

Thursday, May 17: 3rd Annual Fun-Run. Thursday June 6, Oval Ball. If you would like details, information on any of these please contact S. Hill 5391720, G. Adams 5644533, R. Houston 5658435.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

9.30 Opening with the Holy Quran
9.40 Cartoon serial
10.10 Magazoe D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Daily Arabic serial
11.25 Arabic act - Amwal Al Yamana
12.30 News in brief
12.35 Closedown

Evening

4.00 Opening with the Holy Quran
4.15 World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.35 Cartoon serial
5.00 Local programme - Little Artist
6.00 Historical serial - Muslim judges
7.00 Songs
7.15 Nour Al Islam
7.45 Cultural programme
8.00 Public and Security
8.30 Good Evening
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Weekly local programme - Dairat Al Ahdath
10.15 Daily Arabic serial - Layali Al Helmya
12.00 News in brief
12.05 World Today via Satellite and closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Brave Star. A cartoon series for children.
6.30 Take Hart. The impor-

taoce of curves and circular lines in drawing industry.

7.00 Survival.
7.30 Out Of This World "Cinderella Evie". Evie's mother refuses to purchase a skirt for special occasions and Evie has to act accordingly!!

8.00 News in English.
8.30 Marlowe "Spanish Blood". When the body of Marlowe's best friend Spanish Delegrerra who was running for district attorney is discovered at his hideaway cabin, Marlowe finds himself embroiled with corrupt politicians!!

9.30 The Road To War "Germany." Hitler totally underestimated his opponents. His ambitions were to achieve world power, but he had no intention of entering into world war. Until the mid-40s, with his eye fixed on Russia, the last thing he wanted was a war on two fronts.

10.30 Feature movie "Side By Side." The retiring men plan to establish their own business and prove that they have the strength to do something.

12.00 News in brief.
12.10 Magazoe d'Actualite and Closedown.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Arabic film
Al Salmiyah
Hall booked
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Desh Ke Dushman
Fataheel Open
Shankar Dada
Fataheel
Usava Pittennu
Al Jahra
Sky Pirates

Granada
1000 Angels
Sulabikhat
Arabic film
Jleeb
Oru Vivada Vishayam
Ahmadi Drive-in
Moh War

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.36
Zuhr	11.45
Asr	3.20
Maghreb	6.27
Isha	7.50



Airline Night '90

Airline Night '90 which took off after a slight delay was a classic example of multinational harmony and integration. The get-together was an undoubted success, despite a slight turbulence due to an unexpected influx of guests.

'High Spirits' put the people in a party mood with their beautiful jazz and set the pace with their rock repertoire and excellent vocal rendition of popular songs by June Woolston.

The 'Hurricane' look on from there and truly whipped up a hurricane to the absolute enjoyment of the guests. Guest artist young Alistair D'Silva surprised the guests with his performance at the keyboard as old Hani with his rendition of a popular Arabic song. Among the many contestants, Elbistham was crowned the Fashion Queen '90 followed by Sancy Gomas and Jesmin Fernandes as first and second runners-up respectively. Leo Fernandes thrilled the audience with his lively magic.

The show was compered by Isha Roy and Marshall Retnos end went on until sunrise at the Ramada with the guests on the floor.



Sri Lankan Muslims celebrate Eid Al Fitr

THE Jamiah Al Khairiyah Li Muslimi Sri Lanka, a society dedicated to helping the needy in promoting religious and secular education of the Muslim youths in Sri Lanka, for the first time in Kuwait after the culmination of the Holy Month of Ramadan, celebrated the Eid Al Fitr festival on a very large scale on April 26, 1990 at the Al Arabi stadium in Mansouriyah.

A large crowd of Sri Lankan Muslims residing in Kuwait including the Ambassador of Sri Lanka, Latiff Sherrideen, participated in the day's proceedings which started at 9.30 am with the Eid Al Fitr prayer, followed by a talk on the significance of the festival by Sri Lankan imam. Thereafter various events namely Quran recitation, oratorical and sport contests were conducted amongst the participants in three large groups. Lunch was served after Zuhr prayer. The event came to an end with the distribution of prizes for the winners.

The society, Insha Allah, hopes to make this an annual event in future to get together all Sri Lankan Muslims residing in Kuwait to achieve its goals by dedication, sacrifice and hard work.

Handwritten text in Urdu script: "سیدہ امینہ علیہا السلام"

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Currency swap set

East Germany's socialist conscience pricks

EAST BERLIN, May 4, (Agencies): East Germany has wrung a flexible deal on monetary union from Bonn but differences over its wish to protect state firms and land from market forces must be ironed out before a treaty for economic merger.

Teams of experts from both countries resumed talks in East Berlin today on the logistics of merging their economies. They're focusing now on finding a way to convert East Germany's state-owned land and enterprises to the private sector.

Under an agreement reached earlier between the nations, most East German savings accounts of up to 4,000 marks will be

traded at an equal 1-1 rate for West German marks. Most accounts higher than that will be traded at a 2-1 rate.

The highest hurdle en route to economic merger was cleared with Wednesday's pact on a currency exchange deal related to age group.

But sticking points remain that have their roots in East Germany's surviving socialist conscience.

Hans Tietmeyer, a director of West Germany's Bundesbank and Chancellor Helmut Kohl's main representative in the talks, said further talks would focus on "the property issue" bequeathed by East Ger-

many's fallen communist rulers.

"We disapprove of the East German coalition's standpoint on this matter," Tietmeyer told reporters in Bonn on Wednesday.

The coalition government of Premier Lothar de Maiziere wants to curb land purchases in East Germany by affluent West Germans for up to a decade to protect tenants given plots under communist land reform after World War Two.

Another bone of contention, Tietmeyer said, was East Germany's demand for subsidies to buffer inefficient state enterprises from stiff Western competition in the chan-

geover to a market economy that is to underpin a unified Germany.

East Germany wants to avert mass layoffs that might kindle social upheaval in a country where open unemployment was unknown before the 1989 demise of the Stasi regime.

The talks resuming in East Berlin will also address East Germany's desire for interim measures to dam an unregulated flood of West German farm produce over the new open borders.

East German farmers have recently blockaded highways and border crossings in protest, fearing bankruptcy if not given

protection as their country gradually folds into the European Economic Community (EEC) market.

The two Germans want to meld their currencies, economies and social systems on July 2, the first decisive step to unification after 45 years of communist-enforced division.

The currency accord was announced on Wednesday in good time to give what Kohl hopes will prove a boost to De Maiziere's Conservative Party bloc in voting for East Germany's district and town councils on Sunday.

East Germans under 15 years of age will

be able to convert 2,000 weak East marks (\$1,200) in savings and cash at par with the vaunted West mark.

Those aged 15 to 59 are entitled to change 4,000 West marks (\$2,350) at par and people 60 and over 6,000 marks (\$3,750). Further savings must be changed at two-for-one.

Some East Germans interviewed after the announcement complained the conversion ceilings were insufficient to offset widely feared inflation and unemployment.

But, read between the lines, the deal satisfied East Berlin's quest for a better deal than the universal 4,000-mark limit originally sought by West Germany.

Iraq slams Opec over-producers

Nazer sees rebound in world crude prices

GENEVA, May 4, (Agencies): Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said today he had ordered an immediate cut in production by the world's biggest exporter and he expected petroleum prices to rebound.

Nazer told Reuters in an interview that he had acted on Thursday to comply with a new Opec agreement to cut excess output and help oil prices which have fallen by about 25 per cent since January because of a glut.

"I have already instructed our companies to implement the agreement. As soon as those instructions reach the market, I am sure that the market will turn around," Nazer said.

Prices had dropped by around a dollar per barrel after the agreement by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries on what traders said was scepticism about whether the 13 members will really stop over-producing.

"Saudi Arabia will not produce any single above its quota," Nazer said.

He said he was puzzled by the negative market reaction to the Opec accord which, other delegates said, aimed to cut the group's total output

by about six per cent.

"I do not understand the negative reaction of the market," Nazer said.

"There is more than 1.4 million barrels a day that were pledged to be cut from actual production which was estimated to be 23.5 million barrels a day."

"And as far as Saudi Arabia is concerned, it would implement the agreement," he said.

"You know that the market, before we came here, estimated the cut needed at between 700,000 and one million barrels a day."

"We cut more than that. We cut 1.4 million barrels a day plus. So I do not think some analysts or traders, who want to manipulate those figures for their own sake, should now sit down and claim that the cut should be bigger than that."

Opec officials had earlier referred reporters to published estimates of the group's April production which put Saudi Arabia around 5.81 million.

Nazer was asked if this would be resolved when Opec meets next, at the end of July.

"I don't know about the scope of time," he said. "But we are definitely working for a solution of the various needs of the countries, especially

those who need to bridge the gap between their capacity to produce and their production level."

Meanwhile Iraq yesterday attacked countries producing over their Opec oil quotas which it said were disrupting prices by flooding the market.

"Those who are playing with the price of oil in an irresponsible manner, in order to achieve very limited gains, must know that they are committing a grave mistake... and it is our duty to warn them not to continue doing that," Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz told a news conference in Baghdad.

He said Iraq had called for the "non-flooding of the oil market with unjustified quantities of production, which will harm the (Arab) nation, including Iraq."

Iraq's ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said on Thursday some Opec member states had "violated their Opec quota and flooded the market, ignoring the interests of other states in the region, including Iraq."

"At a time when Zionist and imperialist circles are waging a clear campaign against Iraq, the increase in oil pumping to the market came from certain states to pursue the

same goal as those circles."

Opec secretary general Dr Subroto urged the international community to co-ordinate efforts to improve the environment without undermining the long-term interests of energy producers — or any other party.

In an address to the commission of the European Economic Communities in Brussels, delivered on his behalf by Dr Iyebuwu Osayimwese, head of the economics and finance department at the Opec secretariat in Vienna, he said increased research needed to be carried out to give a better understanding of the linkage between energy and the environment.

However, he stressed that the wider issues of North-South relations and the transfer of technology had to be addressed because efforts to improve the environment were "doomed to failure" unless they provided a solution to the problem of Third World poverty.

Subroto pointed out that Opec was "decidedly in favour" of protecting the environment, but that the organization had observed that concern over the issue was being used "as a dubious ground for restraining the use of oil."

KD deposit market

Overnight well bid

KUWAIT, May 4, (Reuters): Overnight funds were well bid on Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit market on Thursday, dealers said.

They said short dates were active as a whole and overnight was bid as high as 8-3/4 per cent and tomorrow-next was quoted around 8-3/8, 3/4 per cent.

Activity in fixed periods was confined to one month which was quoted around 8-1/2, 11/16 per cent. Six and twelve months were quoted around 8-7/8, 8-5/8. The Central Bank fixed the dinar at 0.29355/65 to the dollar.

Meanwhile, the Saudi riyal interbank deposit market was quiet on Thursday ahead of the Gulf Friday weekend, dealers said.

CIBUS '90: international food exhibition

Fair gives new fillip to Italian market

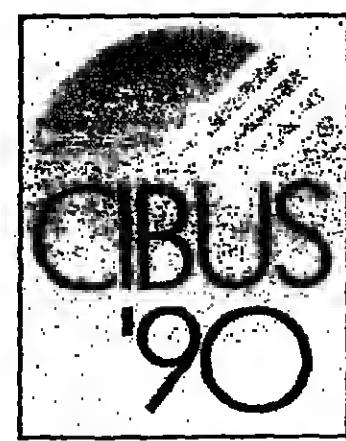
CIBUS an international Italian food exhibition will be held in Parma City from May 6 to 10. CIBUS, one of the most important food exhibitions in Europe, offers a unique opportunity to get an updated and complete picture of the Italian market. The Italian Trade Commission (section of the Italian embassy in Kuwait) has been trying to help local businessmen in order to strengthen trade relations between the two countries. It also gives necessary assistance to local importers to visit this unique exhibition.

CIBUS 90 has created new agile instruments to promote the interaction of supply and demand and to multiply the international contact.

World on line, the data bank to which you can have access before, during and after the show to know and contact firms and professionals interested in meeting you and those whom you wish to meet.

B.C. NET, EEC's computerized system which during the exhibition, will enable you to consult the most important data bank connecting supply and demand from European firms.

Europortello, a service set up by EEC also gives accurate and up-to-



date information on the rules controlling trade with foreign countries, to listen to the needs of exhibitors and visitors and assist them with highly qualified advice.

With CIBUS '90 of exhibition area increases from 60 to 80,000 square metres. New, modern structures to provide an even more complete overview of Italian food products and to broaden the horizon of this international exhibition.

The CIBUS welcome desk will be available at the Milano Linate airport to greet professionals visiting CIBUS '90, here they can obtain any information to help them make their attendance at the show as fruitful and smooth as possible.

A no-stop service will connect Milano Linate direct to the fair grounds of Parma, and back, starting every half hour from 8 am to 6 pm.

Participants arriving at CIBUS '90 via the motorway can look forward to an important innovation: the new motorway parking from which they will be able to walk directly to the Exhibition Centre without driving out of the motorway.

The exhibition will also provide a complete range of quality goods and over a thousand brand names from all over the world, including a large number of food products which are innovative and have high added value.

Since CIBUS was born out of a strategy which emphasized the role of an exhibition in promoting the image of Italian food, no other location appeared more appropriate for a food exhibition than Parma.

Parma has a particularly advan-

tageous geographical position, situated at the crossroads of Italy's various industrial traditions: the city is within easy reach of the main cities of north-central Italy. Visitors and exhibitors from all over the world meet every year to take advantage of this opportunity for commercial success.

No other exhibition has attracted as much attention as CIBUS. In the span of two years CIBUS has received 200,000 visitors (most of them directly involved in the food industry) and has received coverage from newspapers, magazines, radio and television networks throughout the world.

Three hundred journalists have written about CIBUS: over 1500 pages of press coverage have been dedicated to the two editions of CIBUS; the dynamic CIBUS Press Office holds numerous conferences with journalists both before and during the exhibition and keeps CIBUS constantly in the public eye.

CIBUS thus provides a flexible structure which can put those involved in immediate contact with the world of information to provide facts and figures concerning an entire sector or a single company."

Jobless rate falls in Bonn

NUREMBERG, West Germany, May 4, (Reuters): The number of people out of work in West Germany, which is riding an economic boom, fell again in April to 1.91 million or 7.5 per cent of the work force, labour office figures showed today.

The seasonally unadjusted number of unemployed in West Germany declined for the third month in a row, after rising to a recent peak of 8.5 per cent in January. There were 2.01 million or 7.7 per cent jobs in March.

A labour office statement said favourable weather and a rise in jobs on offer also helped reduce unemployment last month, despite a rise in the workforce due to a continued high flow of immigrants into West Germany from East European countries.

The number of unemployed among people from East Germany fell 17,800 to 114,000.

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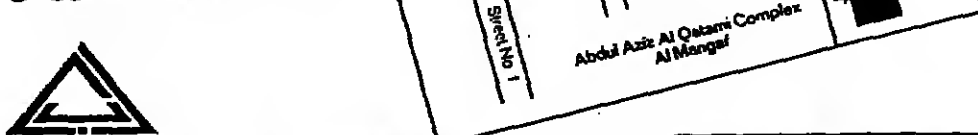
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Jobless rate up Dollar dips against Bonn mark

LONDON, May 4, (Reuters): The dollar fell against the West German mark in Europe today after news of an unexpected rise in US unemployment took currency markets by surprise.

London shares ended sharply higher amid relief that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's ruling Conservative Party had fared better than many commentators had expected in local elections.

The Frankfurt Stock Market also surged ahead after a deal between employers and metal workers lifted the threat of a nation-wide strike.

Currency dealers said the US jobs figures, which showed unemployment at its highest level in 19 months, conflicted with recent data showing the US economy was expanding moderately.

"The jobs data really seemed to come out of the blue. People are more confused than before about what the US economy is doing," one trader in New York said.

The US unemployment rate rose to 5.4 per cent in April from 5.2 per cent the previous month. Economists had expected it to remain unchanged.

Only 65,000 new jobs were created outside the farm sector, compared with an expected rise of 352,000 and an advance of 103,000 in March.

Financial analysts said the low growth in new jobs had cooled any speculation that the US central bank, the Federal Reserve, might raise interest rates in the near future.

The dollar closed in London at 1.6713 West German marks, more than one penny below yesterday's 1.6823 close.

But it held steady against the Japanese yen, closing a touch firmer at 158.47 after 157.88.

The dollar's decline provided an extra boost to the pound sterling, already helped by yesterday's local election results, which did not lead to such heavy Conservative losses as some opinion polls had indicated.

"The result was not quite as disastrous as it might have been, or some pessimists had forecast," said David Sawyer, vice-president of foreign exchange at First Chicago Bank in London.

The London share market was cheered by the elections and by an early but unstable rally on Wall Street after the US jobs data. By noon in New York the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 0.22 points at 2,695.95.

London's Financial Times Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares ended 27.3 points higher at 2,622.2.

In Frankfurt, shares rose sharply as foreign investors flooded back to the market after news of a pay deal between employers and metal workers in a central region of West Germany.

Banker favours convertible dinar

TUNIS, May 4, (Reuters): The governor of Tunisia's Central Bank said yesterday he was in favour of faster liberalisation and a convertible dinar to encourage foreign investment.

Beji Hamda, 54, in his first major policy speech since taking office in March, told a seminar: "Foreign exchange controls continue to limit the effects of reforms designed to tie the Tunisian money market in with the international market."

"They are also an obstacle to foreign capital which is indispensable to carry out an ambitious investment programme which would create new jobs."

"That is why we are determined... to step up the process of liberalisation so as to strengthen our financial reform strategy based on a normal functioning of market mechanisms."

Hamda added: "We are determined to tackle the question of exchange controls with the aim of making the dinar convertible."

Flight pact

NICOSIA, May 4, (Reuters): Turkey will start weekly commercial flights to Qatar in June under an agreement signed by the two countries on Thursday, the Qatar News Agency reported.

Gulf Air, the regional carrier jointly owned by Bahrain, Qatar and the government of Abu Dhabi, started twice-weekly flights to Turkey in 1987.

The agreement was signed in Doha by Turkish Industry and Commerce Minister Sukru Varir and Qatar Transport Minister Abdullah Bin Saleh Al-Maana.

Yuruc arrived in Qatar on Tuesday for talks on Turkish investment and industrial projects in Qatar.

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Morocco to slash deficit

RABAT, May 4, (Reuters). Morocco plans to slash its budget deficit from 795 to 112 million under a revamped 1990 austerity budget presented to parliament on Thursday by Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada.

The new budget, announced in March when King Hassan warned of more belt-tightening, was unveiled a day after the Moroccan dirham was devalued by an average 9.25 per cent against a basket of currencies.

The International Monetary Fund and World Bank have been urging Morocco to reduce its budget deficits and devalue its currency, as part of a programme to straighten out its finances burdened by a heavy foreign debt.

The World Bank estimates Morocco's total foreign debt at \$22 billion, but Moroccan officials say that after reschedulings it is \$20.7 billion.

In a budget statement obtained by Reuters, Berrada said state spending would be cut by three per cent and income increased by 4.8 per cent.

The original 1990 budget estimated the deficit at 6.99 billion dirhams (\$795 million). In the new version it is reduced to 987 million dirhams (\$112 million).

Expected to be adopted by parliament where the government has an absolute majority, the new budget cuts state capital investment this year by 16.4 per cent of 12.67 billion dirhams (\$1.44 billion).

Investments are to be cut in public works, agriculture, education, energy and mines, public health, transport and information.

Revenue is to be increased by 3.51 billion dirhams (\$399 million) mainly with a new tax collection system under which corporate profits tax will be paid quarterly in advance for the current year. Until now the annual tax was due in the first half of the following year.

Airlines team up to meet travel market

ZURICH, May 4, (Reuters). Four Western European airlines joined forces on Thursday in an alliance they said would help them compete in an increasingly liberalised air travel market.

The agreement, signed in Vienna, links Swissair, Austrian Airlines (AUA), Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) and Finnair. It formally consolidates an existing network of bilateral pacts among the group's members, a spokesman for Swissair said.

The deal aims to help the flag carriers work together in a variety of areas, including customer service, marketing, sales and technical work, Swissair said in a statement.

AUA president Herbert Papoušek said the partnership would not lead to a merger, but rather cement close co-operation.

The four airlines have already displayed their willingness to work together to gain an amount of leverage no individual carrier could muster.

Last month they jointly asked US aircraft manufacturer McDonnell Douglas Corp and European Airbus Industrie to submit competitive bids on an order of 240 jets with the same technical specifications. Such a large order carries more clout with manufacturers.

Swissair president Otto Loeferli called the pact inked on Thursday "a teaming of equal partners in a European air line alliance."

Together the carriers employ 80,000 people. Their 250 aircraft carried 79 million passengers in 1989.

Bahrain trade deficit widens

BAHRAIN, May 4, (Reuters). Bahrain's foreign trade deficit widened by 42 per cent to 97.2 million dinars (\$329 million) in 1989 compared with 68.4 million dinars (\$181 million) the previous year, the Bahrain Monetary Agency said.

A BMA report quoted on Thursday by the Gulf News Agency said Bahrain's total exports in 1989 rose to 1,023 billion dinars (\$2.71 billion) against 906.7 million dinars (\$2.4 billion) in 1988.

Bahrain imported goods worth 1.12 billion dinars (\$2.97 billion) in 1989, a rise of 144.9 million dinars (\$383.3 million), or 14.9 per cent, over the 1988 level of 975.1 million dinars (\$2,586 billion).

Exchange Rates

Indian rupee	17.020
Sri Lankan rupee	7.420
Pakistani rupee	13.540
Bangladesh taka	8.330
US dollar	29.925
Pound sterling	48.920
UAE dirham	0.8000
Deutsche mark	17.665
Japanese yen	0.01868

America rules out loans for China

NEW DELHI, India, May 4, (AP). The United States on Thursday ruled out lifting a freeze on loans to China and criticised Asian countries for not going far enough toward opening their economies to the rest of the world.

In a speech at the Asian Development Bank's 23rd annual meeting, US Deputy Assistant Secretary George Folsom singled out Taiwan, South Korea and Thailand as three countries that needed further reforms.

Folsom also questioned whether Asia's continued rapid growth is sustainable without further liberalization.

In a news conference later, Folsom and two other US officials ruled out immediate resumption of lending to China. About \$490 million in Asian Development Bank's loans were frozen to China after the bloody June 4 crackdown last year.

China says the decision to freeze the loans was political and thereby constitutes a violation of the bank's charter.

Larry Butcher, a State Department official, denied this.

He pointed to China's abandoning of an ambitious reform programme as the reason for the freeze.

Starting in the summer of 1988, China began scuttling its reform programme designed to introduce market mechanisms into its state-run economy. But development loans to China were only stopped after the crackdown in June and a deterioration of US-China relations caused by the granting of asylum to China's top dissident, Fang Lizhi, by the US embassy in Beijing.

In a related development, Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto called for a normalization of relations between China and the rest of the world, an indication that Japan would favour a lifting of the freeze.

Hashimoto, in a speech to the bank's members, said Japan "very much hopes that efforts on both sides will repair China's relations with the other countries and the multilateral institutions as soon as possible."

Folsom said the United States would only support loans for basic human needs for China. In February, the World Bank approved two such loans for less than \$100 million.

He said a decision of lifting the freeze would have to be decided "at levels above me."

The Asian region has had the highest growth rate in the world over the last few years. Last year, Asia grew at a rate of 5.4 per cent, compared to a world-wide growth rate of 3.2 per cent.

The United States' interests in the region are substantial. The United States' trade with Asia hit \$297 billion in 1989, 50 per cent more than Trans-Atlantic trade. The United States exports more to South Korea than to France and more to Singapore than to Italy.

But Folsom in his speech said many difficulties loom.

"In many Asian countries, governments continue to intervene in all aspects of their countries' economies," he said. Such policies "have contributed to growth rates that are below those countries potential to achieve."

Folsom specifically called on Taiwan to let its currency appreciate further as a means of lowering its \$12 billion surplus with the United States. He said the country must also further liberalize its foreign exchange rate and capital control rules.

Since January 1986, the Taiwanese dollar has appreciated 51.06 per cent when compared to the US dollar. But Taiwan still has huge foreign reserves, about \$75 billion.

Referring to South Korea, Folsom said the new exchange rate system put in place in March is potentially important. But he said its significance will depend on further liberalization of South Korea's foreign exchange and capital controls.

The exchange system implemented March 1 uses market forces to help determine foreign exchange rates within specified limits. In the past, the government artificially set daily exchange rates.

As for Thailand, Folsom said the booming Southeast Asian country should promote further industrialization and rural development.

Folsom voiced strong opposition to opening talks on replenishing the bank's soft loan facility. He reiterated Washington's position that even though the current funding period is set to expire this year, sufficient resources are in place to postpone talks for at least 18 months.

Most of the bank's member countries are seeking a quick replenishment of the soft loan facility, especially China and India which are requesting access to the loans.

Victor Frank, Jr., the senior US official at the bank, said the United States had yet to determine whether it would support the

request of China or India for soft loans.

Meanwhile Commerce Minister Arun Nehru said today India will not change its economic policies to please Washington, which has branded the country an unfair trader under a law that authorises retaliation.

He told parliament there would be no talks on the subject and India might try to take action of its own against the United States.

"We cannot enter into bilateral negotiations to change our basic economic policies in areas which are in the domain of sovereign decision-making," Nehru told a parliament session.

The United States a week ago branded India an unfair trader for the second consecutive year under the so-called Super 301 clause of the US trade act.

President George Bush cited India for obstructing foreign investment and refusing to allow US companies to do business in the nationalised insurance industry.

Washington dropped two other countries previously cited, Japan and Brazil, leaving India alone on the list.

India in retaliation.

Nehru said India might raise the issue in forthcoming talks in the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"Since the US government has not actually imposed any measure affecting India's exports, the matter is not yet ripe for taking recourse to the dispute settlement machinery of GATT," he said.

"However, we shall continue to work in multilateral fora, as we have been doing in the past, to generate pressure of international opinion against the manifestly unfair course of action adopted by the US," Nehru said.

Washington is also irked at India's outspoken opposition to including protection of patents and copyrights in the GATT talks. Delhi-based diplomats say.

Indian officials say if the government protected patents on pharmaceuticals, for example, the cost of some medicines would soar, denying health care to India's vast population of poor.

"Our policies in these areas are geared to meeting our socio-economic objectives and are designed to address the problems arising out of our economic situation," Nehru said.

More than 150 nations to meet in Washington

Experts to discuss scarce global savings

WASHINGTON, May 4, (Reuters). Economic policymakers from more than 150 nations meet in Washington this week to try to thrash out ways of coping with growing competition from Eastern Europe, Latin America and Africa for scarce global savings.

The scramble for money has already ignited a world-wide increase in interest rates that could up the world economy into recession.

"The world is facing something of an interest rate spiral," said C. Fred Bergsten, a former US treasury official who heads an independent think tank in Washington.

Partly because of the higher interest rates, the International Monetary Fund has scaled back its forecast for world economic growth this year to about 2.7 per cent, from 2.9 per cent, monetary officials said.

The new forecast will be presented to finance ministers and central bankers at the semi-annual meeting of the IMF and World Bank that starts and runs through May 8.

The policymakers will debate

the IMF's need for more money in its role as lender of last resort and also as policeman of the world economy, fund officials said.

Developing nations are pressing for a doubling of the IMF's \$120 billion resources, arguing that the money is needed to ensure that the poor nations of Africa and the debt-ridden countries of Latin America are not squeezed out by the rush to invest in Eastern Europe.

But rich nations, particularly the United States, have balked, saying they do not have that much money to give.

World financial markets have been particularly spooked by the economic strains they see developing in West Germany from its impending monetary union with East Germany.

Investors are afraid that West Germany will be unable to contain the inflationary impact of taking care of its poorer brethren to the east without a rise in its interest rates.

That problem — and signs of resurgent inflation and upticking interest rates in America — will be high on the agenda when the

powerful Group of Seven industrialised countries meet on Sunday.

At their last meeting in Paris on April 7, the G-7 — Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the United States and West Germany — expressed concern that a weakened Japanese yen would undermine efforts to put world trade back in better balance by making Japanese exports more competitive.

Since then, the yen has stabilised, and with it, Tokyo's volatile stock market, taking some of the heat off the issue.

The G-7 also holds the key to the success of the 18-month negotiations to increase the IMF's capital.

An elaborate deal has been worked out under which Japan will displace Britain as the second most powerful nation at the IMF, commensurate with its position in the world economy.

The United States will remain number one but Britain and France are still bickering over who will take over the fourth spot, behind West Germany.

Washington has also effectively threatened to veto a big IMF quota increase if the fund fails to solve its arrears problem — 11 developing countries which are behind on their payments to the IMF, one by as much as \$2 billion.

A four-part strategy has been drawn up to attack the problem — including suspending nations that are lax on their payments and using IMF gold to help those countries that want to clear their arrears but lack the money to do so.

The current betting is that the IMF will eventually settle on a 50 per cent rise in its resources to stand beyond 1993.

Developing countries, and the IMF managing director Michel Camdessus will argue that will not be enough, but rich nations can point to countless other demands on their money.

Finance officials meeting face the embarrassing stubborn problem of how to prop up the shaky Japanese yen.

Only a month ago, they pledged to work against the weak yen's "undesirable consequences" for the world economy and US trade deficit.

West German car workers fear losing their jobs

ZWICKAU, East Germany, May 4, (Reuters). Workers at the plant which produces East Germany's tiny, box-like Trabant cars are fearing for their future as West German firms move in to modernise their country's antiquated automobile industry.

At the vast factory where the wheezing Trabant has trundled out with few changes for 33 years, morale is low.

"We're scared. When Volkswagen steps in here, we could be clocking out for the last time," said Birgit Roeder, 34, an assembly line worker at the Zwickau plant and mother of two.

Demand for East Germany's outmoded cars has faded as a new free market unfolds and West German firms such as Volkswagen enter joint ventures with East German carmakers.

"We never imagined if we'll be here in two months. No one's taking responsibility. Just a lot of rumors," said Karsten Thiele, 24, during a lunch break when workers gloomily debated the impact of coming economic union with West Germany.

"We're trying to keep workers advised but it's hard. We're dealing with a total unknown," said Friedrich Heudel, sales director of Veb Sechsenring, the unit of the state-owned car combine IFA which makes the Trabant.

In the old days, many workers would call in sick in springtime so they could garden at home. No one's doing that now, to avoid a negative impression that might cost them their job in restructuring," Heudel said in an interview.

IFA officials say some workers can be retrained to move into the joint venture with Volkswagen, which will phase out the Trabant, or find jobs elsewhere.

And they hope that a modernised model of the Trabant with a four-stroke VV engine and a standard — production starts in May — will find a market niche with a price under 9,000 marks (\$5,400).

But the IFA officials admit jobs that were guaranteed under the former communist government will vanish in a leaner, automated factory planned by Volkswagen.

They have already introduced early retirement schemes and have decided not to replace 800 Third World "guest workers" when their contracts expire.

Some 15 per cent of East German jobs, about 150,000, rely on car production. About 55,000 work at IFA plants in Zwickau, Karl-Marx-Stadt and Eisenach, where the Wartburg car is to be replaced by West Germany's Opel line over the next five years.

Even without a golden slush fund, two-thirds of those jobs could be at risk, IFA general director Dieter Voigt said at the Leipzig trade fair in March.

Trabant workers despair of union protection. The FDGB union federation has disintegrated after decades as a prop of the communists and independent successors are only starting to get organised.

Egypt doubles gas prices

IMF — linked move

CAIRO, May 4, (Reuters). Egypt has more than doubled domestic prices for butane gas in the latest move to meet IMF demands for economic reform and cuts in state subsidies.

An official announcement on Thursday set the price of home-delivered gas cylinders at E1.50 (57 cents), up from 0.65 pounds (25 cents).

It follows a price rise of up to 20 per cent announced last week for locally manufactured cigarettes.

Opposition newspapers have predicted more price rises as protracted negotiations with the International Monetary Fund on economic reforms seem to be bearing fruit.

President Hosni Mubarak, who has jokingly labelled the IMF "the fund of misery," told Egyptians on Tuesday they would have to undergo economic hardships to achieve a healthier economy.

"There is no way out and we will have to endure," he said.

Prime Minister Atef Sedki said in remarks published on Wednesday he expected an agreement with the IMF by July.

A key IMF demand has been to scrap huge state

subsidies on basic food and energy items, officially said to be running at about E3.6 billion (\$1.4 billion) a year.

Last year, Egypt raised prices of electricity and some oil products to bridge a huge gap between local and world prices.

Officials say there is no real disagreement with the IMF on the need to reform an economy burdened by a \$50-billion foreign debt, a huge import bill and a high birth rate.

But Cairo, which believes hasty reforms may lead to social unrest, has publicly clashed with the IMF on the speed of a reform programme.

Sudden rises in the prices of bread, a staple food for most of Egypt's 55 million people, and other basic items in 1977 led to bloody street riots in which dozens were killed. The government was forced to rescind them.

Oil Minister Abdel-Hadi Kandeel in remarks published on Thursday defended gas price rises, saying they had remained unchanged for about 20 years and were still more than three times below world prices.

Brazil extends price freeze

BRASILIA, May 4, (Reuters). Carrying forward its war on inflation, the Brazilian government yesterday extended a price freeze for another month.

Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello told a news conference that during May prices of electricity, basic foods, medicines, automobiles, some electrical goods, fertilisers and agricultural equipment would not change.

President Fernando Collor de Mello, on his second day in office on March 16, unveiled one of the nation's most drastic inflation-fighting plans in history to halt annual price jumps.

The government froze more than 5100 billion of financial assets for an average of 24 months and also announced price controls. Economists said the asset freeze was so far-reaching that price controls were largely irrelevant.

Collor has said several times that inflation has been beaten back. The government estimated that prices in April did not change at all, after an 84 per cent jump in March.

But the official statistics institute, the IBGE, said on Monday that from mid-March to mid-April consumer prices rose 44.6 per cent, despite the plan.

The Collor programme comes after the failure of three anti-inflation plans in Brazil, in 1986, 1987 and 1989. Economists said the inability of former president Jose Sarney to control public spending lay at the root of the failures.

American factory orders rise

WASHINGTON, May 4, (AP). Orders to US factories for durable goods rose 3.8 per cent in March, the highest level in more than a year, the government reported yesterday.

The Commerce Department said orders for both durable and non-durable goods totaled a seasonally adjusted \$340.4 billion after advancing 1.8 per cent in February.

Orders in February and March also recovered the 4.5 per cent decline in January, the steepest drop since a 7 per cent decline in December 1974.

The March increase was the largest since a 4.7 per cent gain in December 1988.

Most of the March increase was in durable goods, up 6.6 per cent to \$128.7 billion after gaining 2.4 per cent in February.

Transportation orders accounted for most of the gain, increasing 22.4 per cent to \$36.6 billion. Aircraft led the advance with a 63.2 per cent increase, although most other

major industries also posted gains.

Excluding transportation, orders were up 1.0 per cent. Orders for non-durable goods rose 0.3 per cent to \$111.7 billion, with food and chemicals accounting for most of the gain.

In the key category of non-defence capital goods, a barometer of business investment plans, orders rose 14.4 per cent to \$41.3 billion after declines of 5.9 per cent in February and 13.6 per cent in January.

The volatile defence category posted a 3.9 per cent decline to \$7.4 billion after advancing 18.3 per cent in February.

Excluding defence, orders were up 4.0 per cent, the largest gain since a similar advance in April 1989.

In addition to orders, the department said shipments were up 1.1 per cent to \$236.8 billion after gaining 3.4 per cent a month earlier. They were the first back-to-back gains since January 1989.

Street theft spotlights the old-fashioned ways of London finance

LONDON, May 4, (Reuters). In the age of computer banking, some time-honoured traditions survive in London's bustling financial district, where fortunes in bonds are still carried from office to office in briefcases.

When a young thief made off with one such briefcase in a mugging on Wednesday, Britain's Central Bank sent out a crime alert to finance houses world-wide and took emergency action to prevent a hiccup to the country's money market.

The case contained nearly £300 million (\$500 million) in potential negotiable bearer bonds and was being delivered by hand, the way documents have been transported in the city, as London's financial district is known, for nearly two centuries.

Although a multi-millionaire on paper, Wednesday's attacker would find it virtually impossible to cash his certificates, technically the biggest robbery haul in British criminal history, after the Central Bank tip-off.

The briefcase will probably be worth more to him than its contents, said one London bond dealer.

An army of foot messengers take about £30 billion (\$50 billion) worth of financial certificates across the square mile of the city every day, a sum equivalent to twice Britain's expected trade deficit this year.

The messenger system is as old as the finance district itself, where dealers first congregated in coffee shops and later financial institutions and brokerages were built close together to allow documents to be delivered quickly by hand.

"It hasn't changed much over the

years," said one money market source. "But I think I spotted a woman messenger once."

The Bank of England, admitting that the system is out of place in modern high-speed markets, is to introduce a computerised settlement service for the British money market later this year which would see the end of delivery on foot.

"We were concerned about the messenger system looking rather Dickensian in the modern money market," a spokesman for the Central Bank said on Thursday.

The 100 or so messengers, working for institutions known as discount houses which buy and sell the negotiable securities, are easy for would-be attackers to spot as they wear suits with their

employer's name emblazoned on the lapel. But money market sources said the old system, although seemingly antiquated and vulnerable to street crime, remained efficient and relatively safe.

"In practice they (the bonds) are mainly traded between banks and a few money firms. It would not be that easy for anyone to walk in off the street (with bonds) and exit with a sack full of cash," said one city analyst.

In January, a city worker was rewarded with a mugshot of champagne after handing in £4 million (\$6.6 million) worth of bonds he found in a gutter outside the London Stock Exchange.

The new paperless settlement system, to be called the central money markets office, will be run by the bank and participants will be charged for the service.

Philips profits dip

AMSTERDAM, May 4, (Reuters). Philips, the Dutch electronics giant, reported on Thursday a sharp drop in first quarter operating profits which broke a sharp rise in the computer business for the drop which almost wiped out net profit.

First quarter group operating profit before extraordinary items and taxes fell to 450 million guilders (\$225 million), 26 per cent down on the same period of 1989.

Net group profit rose 50 per cent to 336 million guilders (\$168 million) but this included an extraordinary gain of 330 million guilders (\$165 million) from the sale of defence electronics units to France's Thomson-CSF.

Turnover was 12.82 billion guilders (\$6.41 billion), only slightly higher than the same period of 1989.

"These results were something of a disaster. Philips is dragging the whole market down," one share trader said.

On the Amsterdam bourse, Philips shares fell 5.20 guilders (\$2.60) to a low of 32.50 guilders (\$16.25) on the news before recovering to 34.00 guilders (\$17.00) in late afternoon.

At London brokers Kleinwort Benson Securities, Chris Honnor, head of European sales and research, said: "Philips normally manages to let the bad news filter out but what has happened now is almost beyond belief."

Offshore banking planned

RABAT, May 4, (Reuters). Morocco plans to create an offshore banking system and a large industrial free zone to capitalise on its proximity to the European Economic Community, Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada said.

"Because of its strategic position Morocco is the gateway to Europe, destined to be the biggest market in the world," Berrada told a news conference on Wednesday night.

He said the government proposed to set up an offshore banking system in the northern city of Tangier, 10 miles from Europe across the Gibraltar Straits.

The industrial free zone would be located on 300 hectares (740 acres) at the new ocean port of Jorf Lasfar 110 km (69 miles) southwest of Casablanca.

The proposals will be discussed by 124 senior multinational corporation and banking executives who will attend a symposium today and tomorrow in the southern seaside resort of Agadir.

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King Farouk with Erma

Romanian filmmaker

Gifted with the art of dodging censors

By Andrej Gustincic

BUCHAREST (Reuters): Romanian filmmaker and dissident Mircea Daneliuc braved censorship and death threats in his struggle to make movies under Nicolae Ceausescu.

"Making films under Ceausescu was an adventure," Daneliuc, 47, told Reuters in an interview. "Trying to get your films released wasn't difficult, it was downright gruesome."

Daneliuc, who makes violent parables of totalitarianism and human weakness, was one of the few talented Romanian filmmakers who refused to leave his country and seek a career in the West.

"I wanted to be here for the revolution," he said.

Ceausescu, one of Europe's last, Stalinist dictators, and his wife Elena were ousted and executed during a bloody uprising last December.

Although it never reached the peaks of Hungarian, Czechoslovak or Polish film, the Romanian film industry produced several outstanding films in the 1960s and 1970s, such as the 1964 film *The Forest of the Hanged*, the country's first international cinematic success.

"The official policy was to support spineless people," Daneliuc said. "Censorship here was more atrocious than elsewhere in Eastern Europe."

Ceausescu created a personality cult of awesome proportions for himself and his wife and demanded that films should glorify Romanian history and the achievements of the Communist Party.

"Film-makers needed to have a special gift — they had to be more cunning than the censors, who were adept at finding allusions to Ceausescu and Elena even where there weren't any," Daneliuc said.

His 1983 film *Glissando*, which was concerned with the rise of totalitarianism and is strongly influenced by Soviet director Andrei Tarkovski and Italian director Federico Fellini, ran into endless layers of censorship.

The film sat on a shelf for two years before being given limited release. It was quickly withdrawn.

"One of the more generous censors offered me a way out — he suggested that I burn my film and pay for the damages myself," he said.

"I loved that solution," said Daneliuc with heavy irony.

The experience of trying to release the film, full of shocking and grotesque images, prompted Daneliuc to throw down his Communist Party card at a dramatic meeting of the official filmmakers' union, an unheard-of act with harsh consequences.

He was interrogated daily and received death threats over the telephone.

"Every time I went to walk my dog, I was not sure whether I would get home alive," he said.

Despite the fact that films glorifying Romanian nationalism and the Communist party, Ceausescu's favourite topics, were in abundance, a planned biography of the dictator never got off the ground.

A competition was organised to select the best screenplay and several actors auditioned to play Ceausescu but after 10 years of planning nothing was ever filmed.

"The party found people willing to work on the project but fear won out," Daneliuc said. "They were afraid Ceausescu would be displeased if the film didn't praise him enough."

It took Daneliuc two years to get permission to shoot his last film *Jacob*, which tells the story of a man who toadies to the authorities and meets a tragic end.

By Ahmed Al Jarallah

ERMA, an enigmatic lady, is the central theme of this story and my first plan of action was directed to the modalities of getting to know this mysterious woman.

This truly remarkable personage is the well known Princess Erma Caprice Minotelli, mistress of former monarch of Egypt, King Farouk.

To people who lived during that era, Erma represented the story of mammoth developments and changes in the Middle East region and the birth of new values and regimes and the downfall of others.

This lady kept her love alive for the king until he died. She had been in my thoughts for a number of years.

How I met with her, spent three exciting days and the conversation that transpired, including her testimony, which is the first of its kind, provides an insight into the man we always thought was the most spoilt on earth.

Flying to that ancient dreamy city of Rome where Erma lives, I met with her and found her to even exceed my imagination. I began my interview with the question:

How did you come about to meet with King Farouk the first time?

Taking a deep breath, the princess said:

"I was nine years old when I first saw the king. I was the little girl who presented him flowers at a function held in his honour at an aristocratic club in the city of Naples in 1952. That day cannot be erased from my memory as his face reflected sadness after the king abdicated the Egyptian throne and left his country.

As a little girl at that time, I did not know what was going on around me. All I knew was the sadness on the face of King Farouk to the extent that I felt it was killing him. I did not even realise the status of the man who took the flowers from me, except to see that he had green bluish eyes, a good looking face and that he returned the compliment when I bowed down before him by playing with my hair.

Wanting to probe further, I asked her to tell me precisely when she fell in love with King Farouk, how this love developed and how she spent her life with him.

After what seemed to me to be an eternity and after much hesitation, and with bitter sweet memories reflecting from her countenance, she said: "I was only 16 years old when I fell in love with King Farouk when he arrived in Naples to spend his



Ahmed Jarallah relaxes with Erma in a restaurant.

An exclusive interview with Erma — the lady who loved King Farouk of Egypt and still cherishes her memories...

years of exile — after a period of seven years from the date of my first meeting. At that age, I felt I loved him.

From a journalistic viewpoint, I queried: But, how did you love him?

"Listen Kuwaiti," she said "Pardon me calling you in this manner, but I cannot pronounce your name well. It is really a stormy story and was the talk of the whole Italian society that day. In a nutshell, I fell in love with him and was opposed by both my father and mother. In the final analysis, my mother accepted the reality, as only mothers can understand their daughters who are very close to them — both being women.

Prodding further, I asked: But, why Farouk in particular, seeing that girls of your age had a "plethora of men" to choose from.

The princess replied that she could really not put into words the exact factors that contributed to her falling in love with Farouk in particular, but commented that he was handsome and his eyes were what really attracted her. She went on to say that she still remembered the Egypt of the Nile and its old rich history — the Pharaohs, the Roman Caesar, Cleopatra and others.

"I was a young girl at that impressionable age and all this history living in my mind somehow transfigured into Farouk who made a vivid impression upon me. Though not being specialised in history, I had heard numerous stories from older Italian girls about Farouk and was impressed that I was with an Arab king who could narrate to me many tales about the Arabs and Middle Eastern men. I even

became convinced that the wonderful story of "Cinderella" originated from the Middle East because of its poignant imagination.

"Cruising along these lines of thought it was not long before the winds of Farouk blew me to the Nile. He was a true artist, as he loved art, fluently spoke six languages and spoke Italian as his mother tongue. He used to sing me a famous Naples song: What your mother had done for you. He played the piano as he sang. He sang in Italian and he also used to sing in Arabic and I used to love it. Though, I knew no Arabic, he taught me the word *Habeebti* (My Darling) and *Inshallah* (If Allah wills) and explained their meanings to me. I particularly liked the second word, but do not know why. Perhaps because it is optimistic," she added.

I expressed to the princess my desire to visit all the places that Farouk used to visit and take her along with me. But, in the interim, I asked her to tell me the story of how he was deposed from the throne.

The query took her by complete surprise and perhaps dismay as she immediately rebutted: "You Kuwaiti, do not say that Farouk was deposed from the throne of Egypt. Farouk decided to step down and was not deposed. He had always been telling me this and had assured me that he stepped down in order to avoid a civil war. He said that he chose to leave for Naples alone in 1952, carrying his sorrows with him rather than spreading the sorrow and sadness all over Egypt. He held his sorrow to himself, though to me I

could read it in his face — I believe, sadness never left his waking hours.

Princess Erma, now that you mention it, I cannot recollect seeing a picture of a smiling Farouk. Could you elucidate a bit more on this aspect?

Incidentally, Farouk who was born in February falls under the sign of Pisces. People under these signs are talented and characterised as being fond of arts, including drawing, painting, music and have a flair for languages. I also belong to Pisces.

As lunch-time drew near, I asked the princess where she would like to have lunch.

She immediately answered without thinking: At the small moderate restaurant where I used to go with Farouk several times. At the restaurant there were several gourmet Italian dishes and I feasted my eyes on the food. She noticed this and said: "You are like Farouk who used to fill the table with dishes, but never ate much." I was surprised and told her that King Farouk was a huge man with a big belly and she should not compare me to him.

Confiding to me, she said that King Farouk had told her that when he was King of Egypt, a number of assassination attempts had been made on his life. The trauma caused him to take a number of medicines for extended periods of time, their side effects made him hulkier. However, she said that he was tall and that when she first met him, he had a good physique. "We used to eat at this very place, though he had no favourite dish," she said and continued: "When relations were restored between him and my family, he liked home-cooked Italian dishes prepared by my mother."

Meanwhile, the restaurant owner looked at Princess Erma and asked her — "Is this a new Farouk?"

She smiled shyly and explained to him who I was. When he left, Princess Erma looked at me and said that after the lunch she would order a special type of cake called "To Up" — though — we in the Middle East like the cake "To Down".

She asked if I would like coffee. After declining I asked her if she preferred to continue the interview until dinner. Answering in the negative she asked me to take her home as she did not like to go alone. I left her at the gate with the promise to continue the conversation in the evening.

To be continued next week

Breaking down barriers of bilingual learning

CHELSEA, Mass. (CSM): Standing at the blackboard in fifth-grade maths class, new arrival Andrei Smadana scribbles a division problem differently from the other students. Puzzled, tell teacher Peggy Harrington that he should do it "the right way."

"No, let him do it the Czech way," she says. "He'll work it out." And, after much writing and erasing, he does — triumphantly.

Andre is from Czechoslovakia, but most of his classmates are Spanish-speaking, with various levels of English comprehension. What they have in common is that they are all good in maths. Mixing them in the same classroom is part of a pilot programme the Shurtleff School has started to break down the barriers between bilingual and monolingual learning.

Such experimentation is becoming the norm at Shurtleff and other schools here

in Chelsea, a city hitherto known for problems in education. And behind the attempted revival is Boston University (BU), which last June became the first private university to manage a school district in the United States.

In 1987, when the Chelsea School Committee invited the university to manage the school system for 10 years, the district faced numerous challenges: low test scores, high dropout rates, teen pregnancy, low salaries for school employees. In addition, 65 per cent of the district's 3,500 pupils don't speak English.

The powerhouse behind the plan, John Silber, who recently took leave from being president of BU to run for governor, has said Chelsea "is the crucible for the American dream. If we can solve the problems in Chelsea, we can solve them... anywhere."

BU's plan calls for scrutinizing every aspect of the school system. Topping the

management team's agenda are:

- Individual learning plans for every student.
- Year-round child care.
- Placement of health clinic in every school.
- A written curriculum (Chelsea does not have one now).
- An extended year for teachers and administrators in order for them to spend more time on professional development.
- Building new schools and modernizing facilities.

"This isn't business as usual — this is education reform," says Assistant Dean of Education Ted Sharp. "How are we going to cut red tape and see what works?"

In the agreement, the university pays for new programmes, while Chelsea pays for running the school. The city is paying only 17 per cent of tax revenues toward education; nearby cities pay as much as

73 per cent.

The university's budget for next year calls for a 16 per cent increase in city spending, and this goal is supported by the mayor. This would boost the school system's current budget of \$14 million by about \$2 million, Dean Sharp estimates.

BU's ambitious plan has traveled a rocky road both before and after taking charge of the system last June. Teachers objected to a hard-hitting report BU issued on school conditions. There were city budget crises, a state economic downturn, and fund raising by the university got tougher as national foundations tightened purse strings. Chelsea Teachers Union was unhappy with changes in state law that the university obtained — such as gaining access to pupil and personnel records — and tried to block the plan.

But the school reforms, like the digging of the Panama Canal, went forward

slowly. Many eyes are watching the project: the Governor's Oversight Panel, an Executive Advisory Committee (a host of special-interest groups), and the Chelsea School Committee.

Teachers initially were worried that BU would be breathing down their necks. But the university has come in with a gentler hand than anticipated.

Part of that is because of acknowledged mistakes on BU's part.

In a candid lecture recently, dean of education and director of the project Peter Greer admitted that not understanding how the community operates as well as not giving teachers credit for the good they had accomplished, resulted in slower progress.

Cathy O'Rourke, who teaches fifth-grade science at Shurtleff, is in favour of BU's reforms.

"In the first year you had people so skeptical, watching,

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

Question: A lot is written about the dangers of cocaine use, but I have seen little that describes the problems that go with trying to stop. What happens to a person who is addicted to the stuff and then tries to stop? If there are any bad results, are there any treatments to help?

Answer: It sounds like you're seeking answers that will help you make an important decision. Although I'm going to provide some information for you here, you're going to need much more, good advice, wise counsel, and someone to help you through. That means finding a family doctor or other physician with the knowledge, skills and experience necessary to assist you.

The problem of cocaine abuse has really grown in the last 15 years. From 3.4 million people reported to have tried it at least once back in 1974, to an estimated 30 million people in 1989. While the physical dependence on cocaine is less dramatic than with heroin and other drugs classified as opiates, the psychological dependence is severe. This leads to withdrawal symptoms that can affect both mind and body.

The most common and most serious withdrawal symptom is depression, but muscle tremors, severe headaches, ravenous hunger and a change in sleep patterns are also frequent. The symptoms usually begin rapidly, within 24 hours after the last sniff of cocaine, and they can continue for as long as seven to 10 days. There is no one specific method or medication to help the patient, but medications that are useful in treating other types of depression also may be helpful here, to relieve the symptoms and help with lessening the disturbances of the sleep patterns. It may mean a period of time away from normal activities, but that is a decision for you and your physician.

COCAINE USER USUALLY NEEDS HELP IN KICKING ADDICTION

If you're really hooked, this is not a task to take on without help, and you may need some additional help to get you started. Try the national hot-line 1-800-COCAINE. If it's busy when you call, don't stop trying. There are a lot of people seeking help these days, and you will eventually get through to a most valuable source of information and help.

Question: I have a friend who has "Reiter's Disease." I'm considering a sexual relationship with this man, but am concerned, since I understand it's sexually transmitted disease with no cure. Could you please provide information about the disease, including its symptoms and effect on both men and women?

Answer: There are four elements in the symptoms caused by Reiter's Syndrome — arthritis, urethritis (inflammation of the tube that carries urine from the bladder to outside the body) or a cervicitis in women (inflammation of the cervix), conjunctivitis (red eye) and small painless ulcer-like lesions usually found in the mouth, tongue or head of the penis.

It may result from bacterial infections to the digestive system such as salmonella or shigella, but a sexually transmitted form occurs most frequently in men ages 20 to 40. This sexually transmitted form is usually associated with an infection by chlamydia trachomatis and should be treated with antibiotics, tetracycline or erythromycin, for at least 10 days. Both sexual partners should be treated at the same time, to prevent the infection passing back and forth from one to the other.

The arthritic symptoms receive the same care as any other form of arthritis, usually aspirin, or other anti-inflammatory medications. Few patients are disabled by chronic or recurrent outbreaks of this disease.

Men who uphold standard of French gastronomy

They can bring ruin or riches

By Claire Rosenberg

PARIS (Reuters): Their job is as lonely as a spy's. Their comments can provoke ruin or even suicide. These are the Michelin Men whose taste buds are trained to uphold the highest standards of French gastronomy.

"Having Michelin stars is like having a Damascus sword over three-star chef de cuisine in this year's edition of the Michelin Guide. He was finding it hard to swallow."

"Having stars means constant tension, being obsessed with food, never leaving the kitchen, never seeing friends or family — then they go and take one away."

Michelin didn't tell Chantal exactly why L'oustau De Baumanjere in Southern France, lost one of the stars won 35 years ago by his grandfather Raymond Thuillier, who at the age of 94 still bovers in the kitchen.

"They said it would give us publicity," Chantal said. "The worst is, they were right."

The thick, red guide has gone a long way since its launch by the Michelin tyre company in 1900 as an aid to the intrepid drivers of the world's first automobiles.

Distributed free of charge, it listed bakeries and hardware stores that sold petrol, gave a recipe for a home-made eye ointment to combat the effects of dust and discussed the trouble caused by horseshoe nails littering the roads.

With 650,000 copies now sold each year, it is Europe's top-selling guide as well as the traveller's bible on the finest restaurants and hotels of France and of some of its neighbours.

But how the 1,200-page book awards its stars and selects its prime establishments is a secret Michelin enjoys cultivating.

"Discretion is part of the company ethic," Bernard Naegellen, director of the famed guides, told Reuters. "Why should we reveal our trade secrets? What would be the point?"

"The only thing that matters to us is to keep our readers happy by producing an excellent guide."

A quietly-spoken hotel school graduate of about 50, Naegellen showed that although we had agreed to a rare interview, there was absolutely no question of meeting one of Michelin's legendary inspectors, a crops of secret sleuths whose identity is about as well protected as that of a spy.

Michelin maintained the secret of their

identity by rotation, he said.

"It takes seven or eight years for an inspector to cover the whole of France. By the time he returns to his point of departure, people have forgotten his face."

Most of the men, whose pernickety tastes can bring ruin, riches or even suicide in the case of one restaurateur who lost his star in the 1960s, were hotel school graduates with 10 years' professional experience, Naegellen said.

"They must be robust enough to cope with the many meals, fired by passion and not be afraid of solitude."

Despite their lonely crusades across the land in quest of "that extra-special out-of-the-way gem of a place," as Naegellen put it, the Michelin tasters get no perks. "We never reimburse liqueurs or aperitifs," he said.

As for their probity, one of Michelin's proudest qualities, new recruits were scrutinised during months of training.

"It goes without saying that our inspectors are honest," he said. "Our reputation is such, however, that no French restaurateur or hotel-keeper would ever dream of paying a bribe or even offering a free meal or drink. We always pay."

But how does Michelin give and take

away its prized stars? What does it take to be in the top league of 19 three-star restaurants?

Naegellen explained that the 600-odd restaurants awarded a star — along with potential candidates for one — were visited incognito every 12 to 18 months, at least once but sometimes several times by a different inspector.

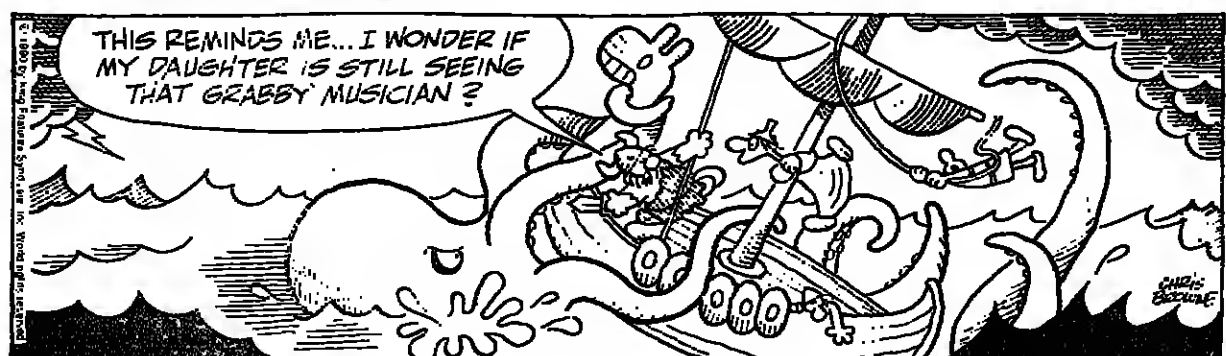
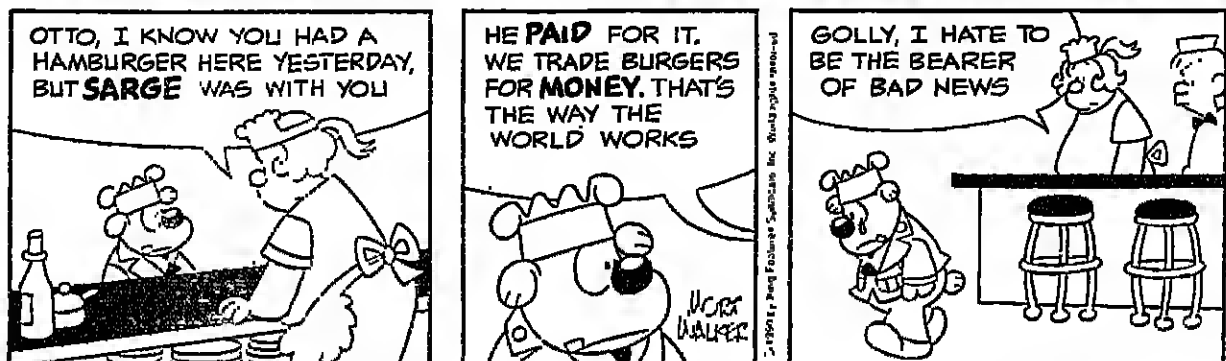
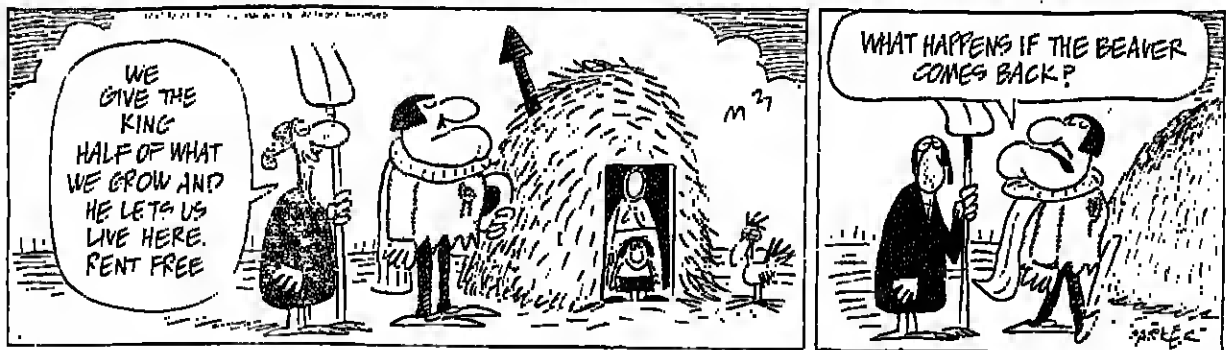
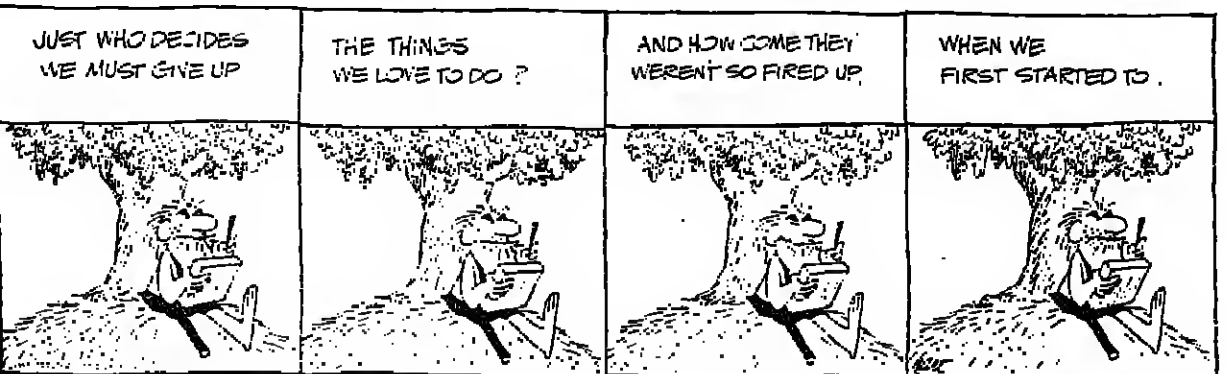
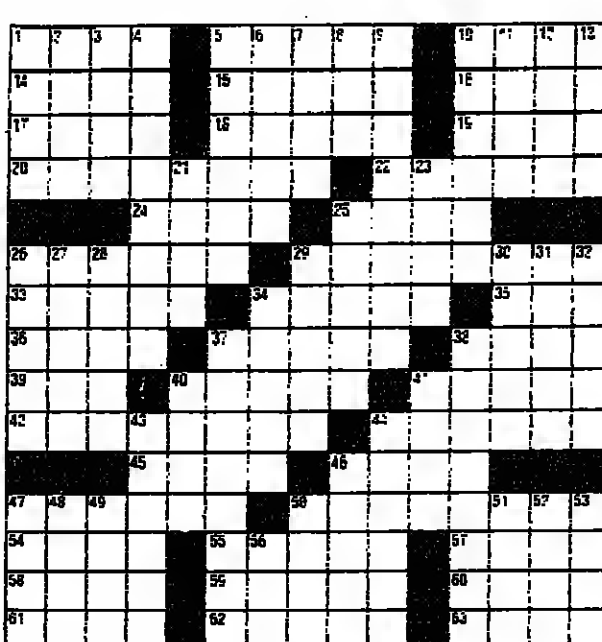
"They often don't even know we've been," he said.

During the same timespan, one of his food sleuths will call, eat, pay the bill, then show his card for an on-the-record chat about the owner's plans for brightening the decor or the food.

Notes are carefully compared at lengthy meetings in the Paris headquarters and a final decision taken collectively.

"What we look for is regularity, the food must be perfect all year round, any time, because the bill is always the same," Naegellen said. "A three-star will stand out because of the fineness of the cooking, the quality of its products and the savoir-faire of the chef."

The 10,000 more mundane hotels and non-star restaurants get an official visit about every 18 months, he said.

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** — By Dik Browne**AGATHA CRUMM** — By Bill Hoest**BEETLE BAILEY** — By Mort Walker**THE WIZARD OF** — By John Parker & Johnny Hart**ANDY CAPP****B.C.** — By Johnny Hart**HE-MAN** — By G. Fortón & J. Shull**TODAY'S CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**
- Amber or lumber follower
 - Typeface feature
 - "Misalliance" playwright
 - Fashion publication
 - Madrid museum
 - Wear's companion
 - Reprobase
 - Kitchen device
 - Art Deco illustrator
 - Winhold
 - Hold back
 - "Exodus" author
 - Scripture
 - eye on
 - Bars
 - Face of Pirates fame
 - Maestro's concert
 - Ironie
 - Capital on the Aar
 - Observes
 - Sack lead-in
 - Yoko
 - "Mr. Television"
 - 3600 seconds
 - Publishers
 - ...my brother's
 - St. Montz setting
 - tide
 - Persist
 - Averts
 - Twist out of shape
 - Freeze, like a windshield
 - Hawaiian royal chief
 - Scotto specialty
 - Saki
 - Drying chamber
- DOWN**
- Sap
 - Cosmetic ingredient
 - Holmes discovery
 - Remain informed
 - Ankle problem
 - Author Ambler and namesakes
 - Stand
 - Orte's cousin
 - Permanently
 - Candy, m. Britain
 - Clarsach, today
 - "Say"
 - Jenny's call
 - NL player
 - Anzone State site
 - Spit specialty, in a way
 - Obraseva of the Met
 - Ga!!
 - Ship bottoms
 - Conless
 - Arrow poison
 - Var
 - Key worker
 - U. of Maryland team
 - Watches do this
 - Memento
 - Bartok's
 - Lugosi
 - Jalopy
 - Lambdas predecessors
 - Continue
 - Surgeon lead-in
 - River in a 1957 film
 - Merit
 - "— go brag"
 - Superman's alter ego
 - Feld
 - Do office work
 - Sibelius, for one
 - de-sac

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

ABIBIA EICIDNIS SHIAH
GLEE SATIIE TIERI
HEADSTIRNDING RATE
ADDITIVE AMIDEIS
LIME GLEAM
RIBERIA MISSITATE
ISIR STEAL AESSIR
CLIP EDGES STILD
EIDER WHITE EDIS
SPECIFIC ADDHEE
STEEN TIRIS
ETHANE LAICIDIES
BIEET BEACHHEADS
ALAE LAVIE RING
NEDIS ETIATIS SLAT

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARI

A TYPICAL TOMMY TREAT

East-West vulnerable. South

NORTH
♠ Q 7 4
♥ J 8 5
♦ A Q 10 9 6 5
♣ J 8 3

EAST
♠ 10 9 6 5 2
♥ 9
♦ K 10 8 3
♣ K 8 2

SOUTH
♠ A K
♥ A Q 7 3 2
♦ A J 9 6 2
♣ 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 Pass 2 ♣ Pass
3 Pass 3 ♣ Pass
6 Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♣

It looked as if 1990 was going to be a banner year for Trump Coup Tommy. There seemed to be a higher percentage of hands than usual where trumps broke badly—a circumstance that turned Tommy from a mediocre player into a bridge genius.

This hand from a team match at the club was typical. Although North's preference did not promise a secure fit, Tommy blasted straight

into six hearts. At the other table South bailed out at five hearts, but even that proved too high. After spade lead, declarer won and took what he thought was a safe line—a low diamond to the queen. South's plan was to ruff one diamond and hold his losers to one in each suit. But when the jack of trumps was later led from dummy, declarer found that there were two trump losers.

Tommy, too, received a spade lead. He cashed his remaining spade honor, crossed to the ace of clubs and discarded a diamond on the queen of spades. Next came the queen of diamonds from the table and, when East followed low smoothly, Tommy took the ace and ruffed a diamond. Another diamond ruff was sandwiched between two club ruffs, reducing West to nothing but trumps while declarer held A Q 7 of hearts and 1 ♠ diamond.

When Tommy led the diamond, West was forced to ruff low. Dummy overruffed and a club was led. East defended as well as possible by ruffing with his singleton 9, declarer overruffing with the queen, losing to the king. But now West was forced to lead away from his trump 10 6 into Tommy's A 7 tenace—making six-odd.

**YOUR STARS**

Something you had expected will be quite different from the way you had anticipated. However you will be able to make a virtue out of a necessity. Take even more care than usual when on the road. Be a little more considerate.



You should remember that spending a little more often helps you to obtain far better quality, but do not spend more just out of snobishness. Avoid dwelling too much on the past and do not make yourself miserable with regrets.



Not everything will be to your liking but you should try to make the most of things. You should take extra care when descending stairs and should beware of uneven paving stones. Make your partner feel loved. Be a little more cautious.



If you have a promise be sure to keep it. Take other people's views into account, but do not allow yourself to be altogether bound by convention. Avoid doing anything that your partner would not like or find embarrassing. Be sensible.



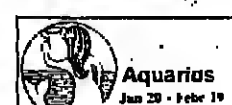
You must resist a temptation to spend more than you can really afford. Restrain yourself if you cannot avoid dealing with a quarrelsome person. Make sure you get all the rest you need, but avoid indulgence. Be loyal.



A tendency to take unnecessary risks will have to be combatted. If you expect others to behave just as you would like them to, you will be sorely disappointed. Make sure you tackle weight gain or loss before it becomes matter of life or death to do so. Be fair.



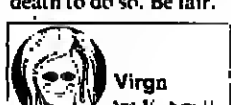
Beware, what seems like a good opportunity could well be nothing of the kind. If you postpone something you have been delaying any longer you will miss the boat. Do be prompt about paying your bills. Be reasonable.



You will be able to do something you had long wanted to do but it will not come up to expectations. Live and let live and do not act too much out of egoism. Do not neglect your cultural interests. Be willing to learn.



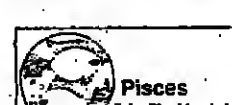
You will have a good opportunity but if you are not swift it will pass you by. You should make sure you keep an appointment and are punctual for it. Pay a little more attention to your personal appearance. Be reliable.



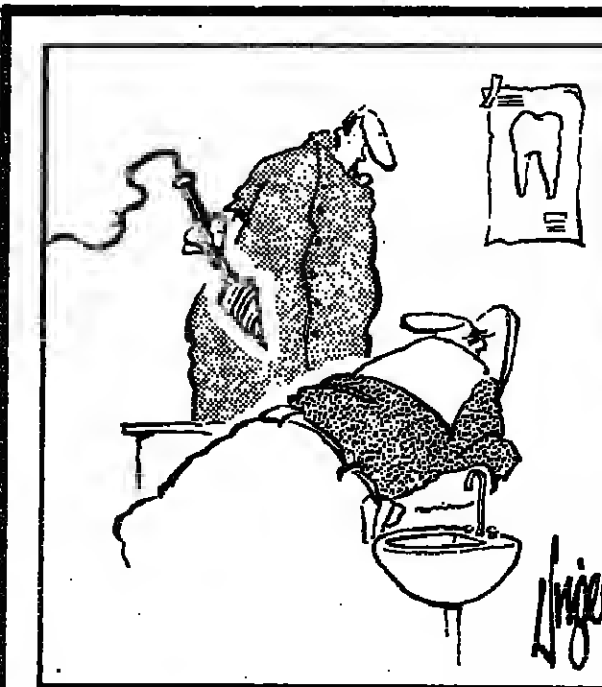
Whilst not everything will go your way some things will turn out better than expected. Your lucky numbers are 17 and 38. A tendency to eat snacks should not be indulged to excess. Pay more attention to your personal hygiene. Be tactful.



There is still a lot to learn and you would be foolish to think you are too 'old' to do so. And avoid finding good excuses for not doing what you know you should do. Do not act on the spur of the moment nor should you dither. Be magnanimous.



Something you had feared will turn out to be less fearful than you had anticipated. Make sure you do not exceed any limits whether of safety or propriety. Give others a little more benefit of doubt. Be moderate.



Pakistan to host third Asia Cup tourney

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, May 4. (AP) Pakistan will host the third Asia Cup cricket tournament, the Asian Cricket Conference announced today.

Abdul Rahman Bukhatir, patron of the Cricketers Benefit Fund Series (CBFS) who chaired the ACC meeting in Sharjah, said that the dates will be set after the next ACC meeting in London later this year.

Sri Lanka hosted the biennial championship in 1986 and Bangladesh in 1988.

The ACC announced after the meeting that Nepal has become a member of the group, affiliated with the International Cricket Conference, the governing body of the sport in the world.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the six-nation Australasia Cup cricket tournament, organized by CBFS.

The CBFS is likely to suffer a huge loss at the Sharjah tournament sponsored by the Japanese company Sanyo due to poor spectator turnout.

But CBFS executives said they were still keen to go ahead with the Sharjah Champions Trophy at the end of the year where the West Indies, India and Pakistan are among the teams to be invited.

The CBFS executives said West Indies, who have competed regularly in Sharjah tournaments, have already confirmed their participation.

Pakistan win Australasia Cup

Wasim Man of the Match; Younus Man of the Series

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, May 4. (AP) Pakistan won the Australasia Cup cricket tournament after a brilliant all-round performance including a hat-trick as Pakistan defeated Australia by 36 runs to keep possession of the Australasia Cup cricket title after an absorbing final today.

Wasim, still recovering from a groin operation, showed he was still a world class player by first knocking an invaluable 49 not out in Pakistan's total of 266 for 7 in 50 overs. Akram then grabbed three for 45 including a hat-trick to cripple the favourites.

World Cup champions Australia, who were never far away from victory until the 46th over, were dismissed for 230 in 46.5 overs.

The Australians were playing at a disadvantage after being hit by a flu virus. The opener and vice-captain Geoff Marsh, also suffering from a bout of asthma, was not included in their eleven. His absence forced the Australians to include a bowler, Merv Hughes, in his place.

At one stage, Australia were promisingly placed at 133 for 3, until the stolid opener Mark Taylor foolishly ran himself out for 52 in the 34th over. The batsmen also benefited from some shoddy Pakistani fielding which granted at least five catches.

Left-arm paceman Wasim, who did not have much success until his ninth over, presented the trophy to Pakistan in a remarkable manner.

He clean-bowled tailenders Merv Hughes, Carl Rackemann and Terry Alderman with his third, fourth and fifth balls to complete his second hat-trick in Sharjah. The 23-year-old



Wasim: turned the tide of the match

Pakistan's heart throb had also taken a hat-trick against the West Indies in Sharjah last year.

While Wasim won the Man of the Match award of \$500, his fellow paceman Waqar Younis picked up the Man of the Series prize of \$5,000 for his haul of 17 wickets.

Simoa O'Donnell scored the fastest 50 — in 18 balls and won himself \$2,500.

Pakistan's innings revolved around Salim Malik's splendid and timely knock of 87 laced with nine boundaries and a six off 104 deliveries.

He put on 69 vital runs for the fourth wicket with Ejaz Ahmed in 66 balls.

However, it was Wasim Akram and Mushaq Ahmed who gave the Pakistanis a match-winning total

with a crucial and rapid 59 runs for the unfinished eight wicket in just 32 balls.

The Australians, who were forced to leave out ailing Geoff Marsh — one of their inform batsmen — fielded very well with Steve Waugh excelling in the deep with some fine saves and turn-ins at the wicket.

Wasim raised the tempo of the innings with some typically lusty hitting, which included two successive sixes off Simon O'Donnell's final over of the innings.

The six-nation \$100,000 competition started April 25 in this southern Gulf Emirate of Sharjah and was organized by the Cricketers Benefit Fund Series and sponsored by the Japanese firm Sanyo. Knocked out of the competition were India, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. India and Bangladesh failed to make it past the group stage. In the semifinals, Pakistan crushed New Zealand by eight wickets while Australia overcame Sri Lanka by 114 runs.

Both Sri Lanka and New Zealand received \$10,000 each.

New Zealand, who scored the highest score of 336 for 4 at this tournament, against Bangladesh, also had the dubious honour of recording the lowest — 74 all out — against Pakistan.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN
Saeed Anwar c Healy b Rackemann 40
Saeed Anwar c Healy b Rackemann 40
Saeed Anwar c Healy b Rackemann 40
Saeed Anwar c Healy b Rackemann 40
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Saeed Anwar c Healy b Rackemann 40
Saeed Anwar c Healy b Rackemann 40

Ejaz Ahmed c Healy b Rackemann 20
Imran Khan c Healy b Rackemann 10
Mansoor Raza c Healy b Rackemann 10
Wasim Akram not out 49
Mushaq Ahmed not out 17
Extras (b-3, lb-10, w-9) 22
Total (for seven wickets, 50 overs) 266
Did not bat: Waqar Younis, Aaqib Javed.

Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-54, 3-80, 4-109, 5-154, 6-179, 7-207.
Bowling: Alderman 5-1-22-1, Hughes 10-0-55-0, Rackemann 10-0-49-3, O'Donnell 10-0-66-0, Waugh 5-0-22-1, P. Taylor 10-0-39-1.

AUSTRALIA
David Boon run out 37
Mark Taylor run out 52
Dean Jones b Waqar Younis 10
Allan Border lbw b Waqar Younis 1
Steve Waugh c Aaqib Javed 64
Simon O'Donnell c Ejaz Ahmed 8
Merv Hughes c Waqar Younis 9
Peter Taylor c Saeed Anwar 33
b Mushaq Ahmed 9
Ian Healy not out 12
Merv Hughes b Wasim Akram 9
Carl Rackemann b Wasim Akram 0
Terry Alderman b Wasim Akram 0
Extras (lb-10, w-3) 13
Total (all out, 46.5 overs) 230
Fall of wickets: 1-62, 2-62, 3-64, 4-133, 5-187, 6-207, 7-207, 8-230, 9-230, 10-230.

Bowling: Wasim Akram 8.5-0-45-3, Aaqib Javed 7-0-27-0, Waqar Younis 9-0-38-2, Mushaq Ahmed 10-1-48-3, Imran Khan 7-0-28-0, Saeed Anwar 6-0-34-0.

Pakistan won the six-nation limited-overs Australasia Cup final by 36 runs.



Jahra crowned champions

Jahra sports Club were officially crowned champions of the Kuwait Football League yesterday. The vice-president of the Kuwait Football Federation Sheikh Talal Khalid Al Ahmad presented the League shield to Jahra captain Mubarek Sherqat Jahra won the title for the first time in their 23-year history. Jahra were little affected by a 1-0 defeat at the hands of Salviya in their last fixture of the League yesterday. Above Mubarek displays the shield.

SPORTS BRIEFS

NBA playoffs

NEW YORK, May 4. (Reuters) Results of first-round National Basketball Association (NBA) playoff games yesterday: Cleveland 108 P. 76ers 96 (Best-of-five series tied 2-2) L.A. Lakers 109 Houston 88 (Lakers win best-of-five series 3-1) Chicago Bulls 110 Milwaukee 86 (Bulls win best-of-five series 3-1)

Moses resigns

RALEIGH, North Carolina, May 4. (Reuters) Edwin Moses, the 400-metre hurdles world record holder, and three others have resigned from a much criticised board that oversees the US athletics drug-testing programme, sources close to the board said yesterday.

Tyson Jr born

NEW YORK, May 4. (AP) Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson became a father this week when a baby boy was born to his 24-year-old girlfriend at a hospital in the Cuskills mountains, the New York Post said today. The newspaper says the child, as yet unnamed, was born Wednesday to Los Angeles divorcee Natalie Fears.

Botham sidelined

LONDON, May 4. (Reuters) England all-rounder Ian Botham has had an exploratory operation on his left knee. His county Worcestershire said yesterday some tissue had been removed from the joint and it was expected that Botham would be fit to play in 10 to 14 days.

Argentine star

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, May 4. (AP) Gabriela Sabatini may be slipping in the tennis ranks, but she's still Argentina's darling and may soon be the star of a TV soap opera.

Reports rejected

ROME, May 4. (Reuters) Italian soccer officials today rejected as out of date reports that fans might be banned from four World Cup stadiums because of inadequate security measures. Hermann Neuberg, FIFA vice-president and president of the World Cup organising commission, was quoted by English newspapers as

saying he was unhappy about the facilities to segregate rival fans at Milan, Rome, Florence and Naples.

Dutch star

MILAN, Italy, May 4. (AP) Dutch soccer star Ruud Geulid denied published reports today that his long-injured knee is still causing him problems and said he will play the Champions Cup final with AC Milan and the World Cup with the Netherlands.

Record disallowed

LONDON, May 4. (Reuters) American runner Danny Everett has had his world indoor 400 metres record disallowed because the race was not run according to the rules, an International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) spokesman said yesterday.

IAAF technical director Mike Gee said Everett broke an IAAF rule obliging runners in 400 metres races on 200 metre indoor tracks to break from their lanes after the second bend.

Tour prologue

WILMINGTON, Delaware, May 4. (UPI) Raul Alcala of Mexico earned the right to wear the leader's neon pink jersey for the first stage of the Tour de Trump when he won the prologue last evening. Alcala, a 20-year-old from Monterrey who is competing from FDM of Holland, bested the field of 133 by almost seven seconds with a time of 6 minutes, 25.893 seconds.

Probe starts

BAKERSFIELD, California, May 4. (AP) Major League baseball apparently has launched an independent investigation into charges that National League umpire Bob Engel shoplifted baseball cards, according to a published report. Frank E. Ciatto, a private investigator who said he represented the baseball organization, on Wednesday made photocopies of court documents and interviewed an acquaintance of Engel's the Bakersfield Californian reported.

Navratilova cruises into quarterfinals

HAMBURG, West Germany, May 4. (AP) Martina Navratilova found her form on clay and breezed past Isabel Cuetto of West Germany 6-2, 6-2 yesterday to reach the quarterfinals of the \$350,000 Citizen Cup women's tournament.

The 33-year-old American, ranked second in the world, produced a contrasting display to her opening match Wednesday in which she dropped a set to Australian Rachel McQuillan, and won in 77 minutes.

In other action, sixth-seeded Nathalie Tauziat of France was upset 6-4, 2-6, 6-1 by 61st-ranked Nicole Pietrangeli of the Netherlands.

Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain, the third seed, cruised to a 6-2, 6-1 victory over 10th seeded West German Sylvia Hanika, fifth seed Helena Sukova downed fellow Czechoslovak Regina Rajchrtova 7-6, 6-2 and No. 8 seed Judith Wiesner of Austria defeated West German Wiltrud Probst 6-3, 6-2.

Unseeded Czechoslovak Petra Angerova, ranked 95th in the world, upset 52nd-ranked Isabelle Demongeot of France 6-4, 6-4.

Navratilova, playing her first tournament on European clay since losing a fourth-round match to Soviet Natalia Zvereva in the 1988 French Open, was never in trouble against Cuetto, who was hampered by knee trouble.

"She wasn't able to move as well as she can and that took a bit of the wind out of her sails," Navratilova said. "But I felt more comfortable today. I felt more at home on the court and I was playing on instinct instead of worrying about the court."

Unlike the rest of the top players, Navratilova is not appearing in Hamburg this week and Rome next week to hone her game for the second Grand Slam tournament of the year, the French Open which begins May 28.

English county cricket scores

LONDON, May 4. (Reuters) Close of play scores on the first day of four-day English County Championship cricket matches yesterday.

At Cardiff: Somerset 361 for two (S. Cook 236 not out, P. Roebuck 69) v Glamorgan.

At Chelmsford: Leicestershire 323 for six (T. Bood 90, N. Briers 65, L. Potter 62, C. Lewis 57) not out) v Essex.

At Folkestone: Sussex 277 for six (P. Parker 107, A. Wells 69, N. Lenham 63) v Kent.

At Worcester: Worcestershire 292 for five (G. Hick 97, P. Neale 72 not out, T. Curtis 46) v Nottinghamshire.

At Edgbaston: Yorkshire 167 in 71.5 overs (G. Small four for 40), Warwickshire 111 for four in 38 overs (G. Humpage 40 not out).

At the Oval: Surrey 396 for six (M. Lynch 95, A. Stewart 70, I. Greig 56 not out, R. Ali Khan 55) v Lancashire.

At Northampton: Northamptonshire 202 in 81.4 overs (G. Cook 44), Derbyshire 55 for one in 25 overs.

Other matches
At Fenner's: Middlesex 320 for four declared (M. Ramprakash 118, M. Roseberry 85, K. Brown 42) v Cambridge University.

At the Parks: Hampshire 437 for four (C. Smith 148, V. Terry 112, D. Gower 72, R. Smith 44) v Oxford University.

Brazil short of strikers for friendly

CAMPINAS, Brazil, May 4. (Reuters) Brazil could have only one recognised forward in their team when they face Bulgaria in a friendly soccer international tomorrow.

Of the five forwards in the Brazil squad currently preparing for the World Cup at their headquarters at Teresopolis, only Muller is fully fit.

Romario is recovering from a broken leg suffered during a Dutch League match in March, while Bebeto pulled a thigh muscle playing for Vasco in a Rio championship match last weekend and will not be able to train until next week.

The other two forwards, Renato and Careca, both have chances of playing but the

decision rests with team doctor Lidio Toledo. Renato pulled a thigh muscle during exercise on Tuesday, while Careca arrived from Italy on Wednesday complaining of muscle pains.

Fullback Mazinho is also likely to miss the match, again owing to a thigh strain. Like Bebeto, Mazinho plays for Vasco, who have just played 10 games in 19 days.

Brazil's World Cup squad began training on April 25 but has suffered because various players have been released to play for their clubs.

The situation improved this week and yesterday only Dunga (Fiorentina), Mozer (Marseille) and Romario (PSV Eindhoven)

were missing. Just as before Brazil's last friendly against England in March, coach Sebastiao Lazaroni said the result was not a priority.

"I look on this friendly as a mere continuation of our work," he told reporters.

Bulgaria, who are not in the World Cup finals, are likely to base their team on League champions CKA Sofia.

Teams:
Brazil (probable): Taffarel, Mauro Galvao, Aldair, Ricardo Gomes, Branco, Jorginho, Silas, Alemao, Valdo, Muller, Careca or Tita.
Bulgaria: To be announced.

Auriol and Sainz resume their duel

AJACCIO, Corsica, May 4. (Reuters) Frenchman Didier Auriol and Carlos Sainz of Spain resume the gripping duel which kept up the suspense until the very end of this year's Monte Carlo rally when the four-day tour of Corsica starts on Sunday.

Auriol's Lancia and Sainz's Toyota fought a nerve-rattling battle in the final night of the winter rally classic in which they were never separated by more than a few seconds before the Frenchman finally came out on top.

The two young drivers again start as favourites in the only rally held entirely on tarmac, with Auriol enjoying an advantage after winning the Corsican race in each of the last two years. Sainz, by contrast, is still pursuing an elusive first win in the world championship.

Tradition suggests the Spaniard may be kept waiting a little longer. French drivers have always dominated the Corsican event and only two foreigners — Italian Sandro Munari in 1967 and 1976 and Finn Markku Alen in 1983 and 1984 — have ever won it.

Auriol starts out with every incentive to make it a hat-

trick of triumphs. In the absence of reigning world champion Massimo Biasion, he has the chance to open up a big gap in this season's standings in which he currently leads his Italian team mate by three points.

Biasion, no fan of Corsican conditions, is perfectly content with Lancia's decision to enter local driver Yves Loubet instead.

Sainz will have his work cut out to end Lancia's domination of European rallies over the past three years. The Italian stable's success in taking the first five places in the Portuguese rally in March showed that the new Toyota may be impressive enough but it needs to be more reliable.

The other Japanese teams, Mazda and Mitsubishi, preferred not to take part in an event in which they have little chance of shining.

The best outside challenge may come from BMW whose French driver Francois Chatriot has produced some promising performances this season.

Some 98 cars start out on the island tour which includes around 10,000 bends and 625 km of special timed stages.

Agassi triumphs

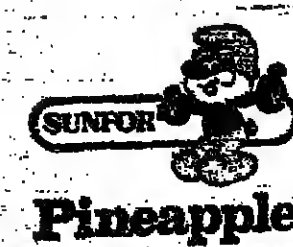
ROSWELL, Georgia, May 4. (UPI) Andre Agassi overcame Tim Mayotte with a barrage of powerful groundstrokes yesterday to earn a spot in the semifinals of the AT&T Challenge with a 6-4, 6-3 victory.

In other matches, Jaime Ezaga of Peru also claimed a semifinal spot, sweeping the last four games in a 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 upset of American Brad Gilbert, while rookie Pro Malival Washington kept alive his hopes with a 6-3, 6-1 rout of Richey Reneberg.

Agassi, the world's fourth-ranked player, kept Mayotte off balance throughout the 67-minute match with accurate baseline drives and deft drop shot.

The slow clay courts at the Horsehoe Bend country club also thwarted Mayotte's powerful serve, allowing Agassi to punish second serves and forcing Mayotte into seven double faults.

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Hadlee, Azharuddin have key tour roles

LONDON, May 4. (Reuters): New Zealand's old warrior Richard Hadlee and India's new captain Mohammad Azharuddin carry a contrasting burden of expectation for their teams during cricket tours of England this season.

Hadlee, the only player to take 400 Test wickets, has spent weeks nursing himself back to full fitness in time to spearhead New Zealand's attack here.

His country undertakes a two-month tour starting on Sunday and including three Tests and two one-day matches against England, while Azharuddin's Indians also play a three-Test series and two limited-overs internationals in an itinerary beginning on June 28.

Hadlee has already said New Zealand's Test against Australia in Wellington in March was his last home appearance for his country. Now the 38-year-old pace bowler returns to the scene of some of his finest triumphs for his Test farewell.

Hadlee's masterly seam bowling has made him the greatest exponent of the art during his era, underlined by his haul of 416 wickets in 83 Tests since his debut in 1973. Ian Botham has the second highest tally of 376 from 97 Tests.

Hadlee's haul could be extended this summer to stand as the Test record for a considerable time, given his deep knowledge of English conditions in which he developed his skills so successfully during four previous tours and 10 seasons with Nottinghamshire.

A fully fit Hadlee — he had an achilles tendon operation at the end of last year and suffered a groin injury during his testimonial games in March — will be crucial to New Zealand's prospects of repeating their 1986 Test series win here.

Joho Wright's team can probably bank on making enough runs from a batting line-up starting with the captain himself and including Martin Crowe, Mark Greatbatch and Andrew Jones, but Hadlee is the match-winner of their attack.

He is likely to share the new ball in the Tests with the improving Danny Morrison, New Zealand's most successful bowler in the recent three-Test series against India in which he took 16 wickets.

Martin Snedden should provide the main pace support, with off-spinner John Bracewell expected to be the specialist slow bowler. He can contribute useful runs, too, so that with Ian Smith developing into an effective wicketkeeper-batsman, New Zealand have a well-balanced side.

They may provide a more searching Test for England than India, who have given Azharuddin the captaincy in an attempt to improve their ailing fortunes. The Indians, who are due to name their touring side next week, have lost four and drawn seven of their last 11 Tests.

Azharuddin, despite little leadership experience at domestic level, succeeded Krishnamachari Srikkanth whose brief reign included leading India in a drawn four-Test rubber in Pakistan at the end of 1989.

Azharuddin's first captaincy assignment, a tour of New Zealand earlier this year, ended with India losing the three-Test series 1-0 but at least showed the skipper's own batting form was on the up and up.

Five years ago Azharuddin burst on to the international stage by becoming the first player to score a century in each of his first three Tests, at home against England.

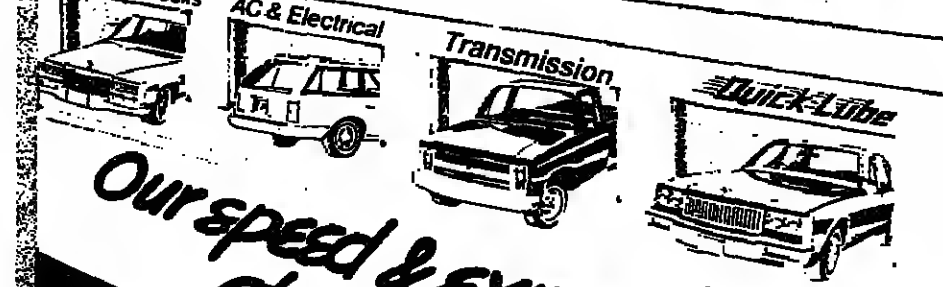
But his performances subsequently faltered, due partly to his vulnerability to the lifting ball, until he resolved the problem during last year's series in Pakistan.

He had India's second best aggregate in the four Tests (312) and followed that by scoring the most runs (303) for his team during the three Tests in New Zealand.

Azharuddin's ability to sustain such form in England, while still learning all the aspects of captaincy, will be significant to his team's hopes of success.

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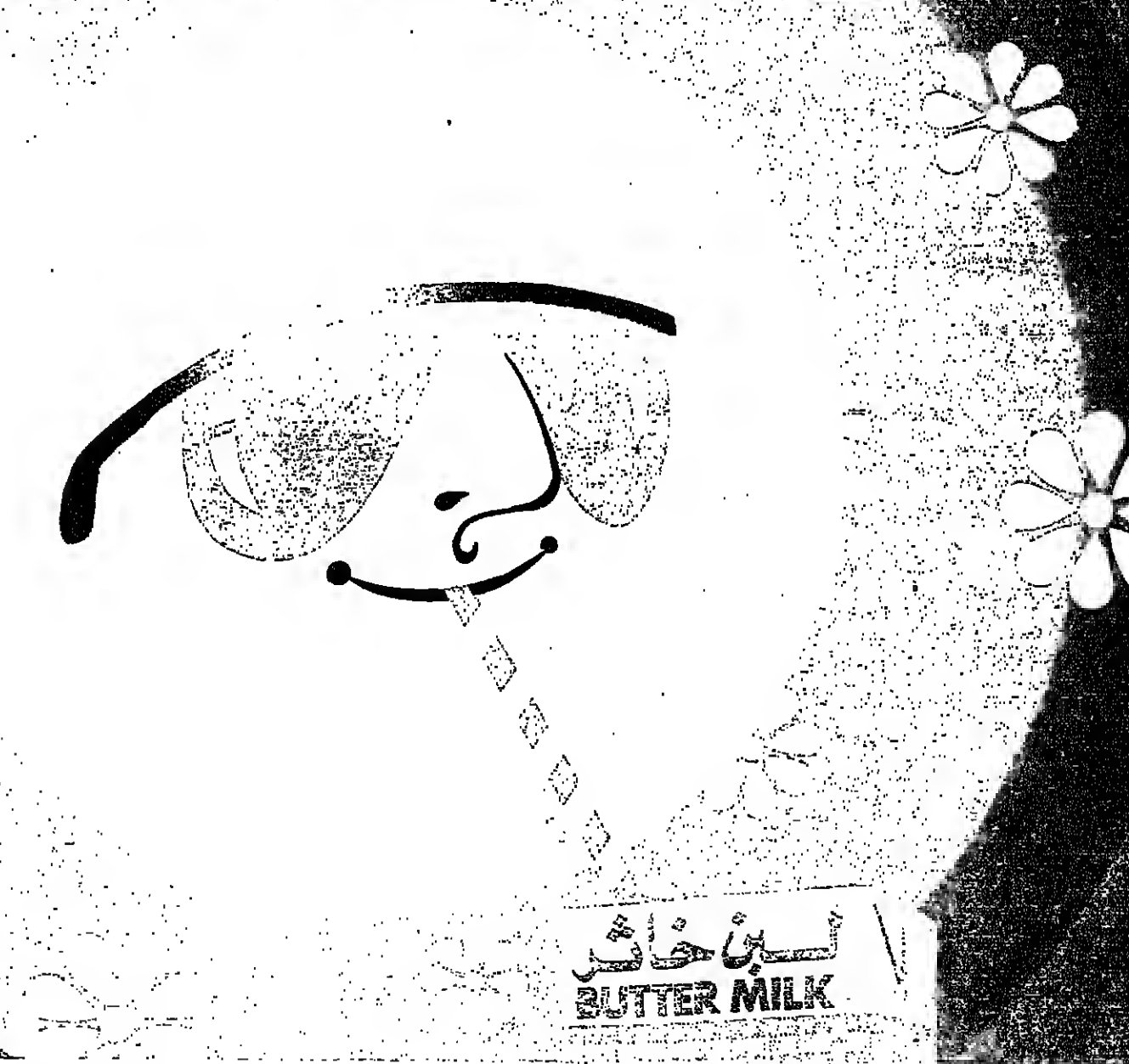
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• Salmya Tel. 5110505 • Fahaheel Tel. 3922711/2.